

F

74

.G9G78

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Chap. F74

Shelf G967

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





AN

HISTORICAL ADDRESS,

Bi-Centennial and Centennial,

DELIVERED AT GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS,

JULY 4, 1876.

BY

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D.



[SECOND EDITION.]

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

GROTON BURNED BY THE INDIANS, 1676.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776.

AN

HISTORICAL ADDRESS,

Bi-Centennial and Centennial,

DELIVERED AT GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS,

JULY 4, 1876,

BY REQUEST OF THE CITIZENS.

BY

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN,

A NATIVE OF THE TOWN.

Second Edition.



GROTON:

1876.

Cambridge:
Press of John Wilson and Son.

F74

1788

TO
THE INHABITANTS OF GROTON,
AND TO
THE NATIVES OF THE TOWN LIVING ELSEWHERE,

This Address,

A WILLING TASK, IMPERFECTLY DONE, IS RESPECTFULLY
INSCRIBED BY

THE WRITER.

*The superior figures scattered through the Address refer to
the Appendix.*

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

THE first century of our national existence is completed this day, and we meet to commemorate the event. A hundred years have passed away since the Declaration of Independence was adopted and a nation was born, that is destined to flourish as long as piety, religion, and morality shall prevail in the land, and no longer. Modern times have been full of great deeds; but none of them is greater than that which declared the American colonies to be free, and put them in the rank of independent nations. The rapid development of the United States during this hundred years has been watched by thoughtful men throughout the world,—by some with jealousy, by others with sympathy; and their success has made them an example for other countries to follow. They have stood the test of a century; and to-day, throughout the land, the great birthday of the nation is commemorating with joy and exultation never before equalled.

The question may occur, Why is this notice taken of a century? Why is a celebration more fitting now than next year or last year? It is because there is a tendency in the human mind to divide time into round periods. At the end of a century comes a stopping-place, from which to look back upon any event that marked its beginning. In our decimal notation, the number *ten* plays an important part, and is a kind of unit. Originally connected in meaning

with the fingers of the hand, a hundred, in its primitive signification as well as numerically ten tens, is a large unit, — a natural division of duration. If man had been endowed by Nature with six fingers on each hand, we should now have a duodecimal system of numbers instead of a decimal system; and it would seem just as easy and natural. This tendency in the human mind is strikingly illustrated by the last census returns of the city of Boston. The number of its inhabitants who gave their ages as just forty-five is more than twice as large as the number of those who were just forty-four or just forty-six. The number of those who were just fifty is more than three times as great as the number of those who were just forty-nine, and about five times as many as the number of those who were just fifty-one. According to these returns, there are nearly twice as many persons who are fifty-five as either fifty-four or fifty-six; and there are four times as many who are sixty as either fifty-nine or sixty-one. The tens have a stronger attraction than the fives, and these, in their turn, than the other numbers. This example, besides showing the untrustworthy character, in some respects, of the census returns, — a point not now to my purpose, — shows how widely pervading is the feeling about round periods; and in this universal feeling is found the answer to the question, why we have the celebration at this time.

The present year has also a bi-centennial anniversary that brings us together. It was in the year 1676 that this town was destroyed by the Indians, and the inhabitants, with all their available effects, were forced to leave it. A contemporaneous account of the removal says that there were sixty carts required for the work, and that they extended along the road for more than two miles. It was a sorry sight to see this little community leaving their homes, which they had first established twenty-one years before. What bitter pangs they must have felt, and how dark their future must have seemed, as they turned to look for the last time at familiar places, — their rude but comfortable homes, their humble meeting-house, and the graves of their kindred whom they

had tenderly laid in God's acre, yonder burying-place! As they made their way along the rough and muddy roads, the hearts of all were heavy with grief; and the mothers' eyes were dimmed with tears, as the thoughts of their blighted prospects filled their minds, for no one could see the end of their misfortunes. Their bitter experiences, however, affected more than one generation. Fortitude is the logical result of hardships: brave parents will breed brave children. Our fathers little thought that these trials were making them the ancestry of a strong people, who themselves, a century later, were to contend successfully with the strongest power in the world. At this late day we cannot know all their sufferings, but we do know that they were a God-fearing community; and on this occasion it is fitting that we should commemorate their virtues. They were plain folk, with homely traits; and their best memorial is the simple story of their lives. For this reason, I purpose to give a plain, unadorned narration of some of the more important events with which they were connected from the very beginning of the town, with a brief account of some of the actors; bringing the narration down through the last century, and touching lightly upon the present one.

In the spring of the year 1655, the township of Groton was granted by the General Court to a number of petitioners. It was situated on the frontiers, fourteen miles from the nearest settlement; and at that time there were but eight other towns in Middlesex County. What inducements were held out to gain settlers for the new town, it is impossible now to ascertain. Probably, however, the country in this neighborhood had been reconnoitred by adventurous men from other settlements; and it is likely that such persons had followed the Indian footpaths, and penetrated to what then seemed a great distance into the country. These persons knew the rivers and the hills, and the lay of the land generally; and, after coming home, they talked about the good farming country. It would take but a few years thus to establish traditions that might draw a few families to desir-

able places. It happened then, as it sometimes happens now, that large fires had run through the woods in dry weather, and had burned until they were put out by some rain-storm ; leaving a track of black desolation that would last for many a year. And, moreover, there were small patches that had been planted by the Indians with corn, beans, and squashes, and therefore ready for cultivation by whosoever should take possession of them. In this way, a few places had been more or less cleared ; and the wild grasses had caught-in sufficiently to furnish fodder to the cattle. This last consideration was a matter of considerable importance to the settlers. In planting towns, it undoubtedly weighed with them in selecting the sites. In fact, it is recorded that, in some of those early years, feed was so scarce that the cattle had to be slaughtered to save them from death by hunger. It should be borne in mind that grass was not then cultivated as it is now ; nor was it for more than a century after this period. In the winter, cattle had to be kept on corn-stalks, and the native grasses which the settlers had gathered wherever they could ; and it required rigid economy, even on these, to keep them till spring.

It was amid such and other difficulties that our fathers founded their settlements. Prompted by interest or enterprise, families would plant themselves in the wilderness and make new homes away from neighbors and far from friends. As these settlements increased in numbers, they were constituted towns without much formality. The only Act of Incorporation of Boston, Dorchester, and Watertown, was an order of the General Court " that Trimountain shall be called Boston ; Mattapan, Dorchester ; and the town on Charles River, Watertown."

Towns thus informally established have grown up with certain rights and privileges, as well as duties and obligations, and have developed into fixed municipal corporations, as we find them to-day. They did not spring into existence full grown and clothed, like Minerva from the head of Jupiter, but they have been creatures of slow growth. They should be compared rather to the old homestead that has

been receiving additions and improvements during several generations, in order to accommodate the increasing and constantly changing family, until finally the humble house has expanded into the roomy structure.

The prominent idea in the minds of the founders of New England appears to have been the support of the gospel ministry. After this came the management of their political affairs and the support of free schools. Captain Edward Johnson, in his quaint and instructive book, "Wonder-Working Providence of Sion's Saviour, in New England," says that it was "as unnatural for a right N. E. man to live without an able Ministry, as for a Smith to work his iron without a fire; therefore this people that went about placing down a Town, began the foundation-stone, with earnest seeking of the Lord's assistance, by humbling of their souls before him in daies of prayer." The College, which was established so early in the history of the colony, was dedicated "to Christ and the Church"; and to the present time this motto is kept on the College-seal.

Mr. Butler, in his "History," says that "the original petition for the plantation or town of Groton is not found, or any record of it" (page 11). Since this statement was made, however, one of the petitions — for it seems there were two — has been found among the papers of the late Captain Samuel Shepley, by Mr. Charles Woolley, formerly of this town, but now of Waltham. A copy of it was printed in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register," for January, 1860 (xiv. 48). It is as follows:—

"To the honored Generall Courte assembled at Boston the humble petition of vs whose names ar here under written humbly shoeth

That where as youre petitioners by a prouidence of God haue bene brought ouer in to this widernes and lined longe here in: and being sumthing straightned for that where by subsistance in an ordinarie waie of Gods prouidence is to be had and Considering the a lowrance that God giues to the sones of men for such an ende: youre petitioners request therefore is that you would be pleased to grant vs a place for a plantation vpon the Riuer that runes from Nashaway in to merimake at a place or a boute a place Caled

petaupauket and wabansconcott and youre petioners shall pray for
youre happy proceedings

WILLIM MARTIN
RICHARD BLOOD
JOHN WITT
WILLIM LAKIN
RICHARD HAUEN
TIMOTHY COOPER
JOHN LAKIN
JOHN BLOOD
MATHU FARRINGTON
ROBERT BLOOD”

On the third page of the document, the decision of the
General Court is given, which runs thus: —

“ In Ans^r to both these peticons The Court Judgeth it meete to
graunt the peticon's eight miles square in the place desired to
make a Comfortable plantacon wch henceforth shall be Called
Groaten formerly knowne by the name of Petapawage: that
M^r Danforth of Cambridge wth such as he shall associate to him
shall and hereby is desired to lay it out with all convenient speede
that so no Incouragement may be wanting to the Peticone's for a
speedy procuring of a godly minister amongst them Provided that
none shall enjoy any part or porcon of that land by guift from the
selectmen of that place but such who shall build howses on their
Lotts so given them once w^{hin} eightheene months from the time of
the said Townes laying out or Townes graunt to such persons: and
for the p^sent M^r Deane Winthrop M^r Jn^o Tinker M^r Tho:
Hinckly Dolor Davis W^m Martin Mathew Farrington John Witt
and Timothy Couper are Appointed the selectmen for the said
Towne of Groaten for one two yeares from the time it is lay'd out,
to lay out and dispose of particular lotts not exceeding twenty
acres to each howse lott. And to order the prudentiall affaires of
the place at the end of which time other selectmen shall be chosen
and appointed in their roomes, the selectmen of Groaten giving
M^r Danforth such sattisfaction for his service & paines as they &
he shall agree;

The magist^s haue past this with reference to the Consent of
their bretheren the depu's hereto

EDWARD RAWSON Secrety

25 May 1655

The Deputies Consent hereto WILLIAM TORREY Cleric”

A religious temper pervades the whole petition, which in its language has the flavor of the Old Testament. It speaks of their having been brought over "by a providence of God," and of their living long in the wilderness. In answer to it, the Court grants a tract of land to make "a comfortable plantation," and provides for its survey and prompt location; naming as the chief end the "speedy procuring of a godly minister amongst them," and foreshadowing in its action some of the features of the modern Homestead Acts of Congress. From these expressions we may learn the guiding thoughts of the first settlers of the town; and it is a pious duty we owe them to commemorate their virtues and their deeds. They were men and women in every way worthy of all the respect and honor we can pay them; and I congratulate those of my audience who trace back their family line to that stock. The names of Parker, Prescott, and Blood, of whom there are so many descendants still among us; of Farnsworth, Lawrence, and Shattuck, names not to be omitted in any historical record of the town; of Gilson, Nutting, and Sawtell, worthy forefathers of worthy progeny; of Stone, Moors, and Tarbell, — all these are familiar to you as the names of citizens descended from the founders of the town; and there are others equally worthy to be mentioned, that will readily suggest themselves.

Mr. Deane Winthrop, who stands at the head of the list of selectmen appointed by the Court, was a son of Governor John Winthrop, and it is to him that we are indebted for the name of the town. A native of Groton in Old England, it was natural for him to wish to keep the name fresh and fragrant on this side of the Atlantic. Groton, in Connecticut — younger by half a century, and famous as the scene of the heroic Ledyard's death — owes its name to the same family. Groton, in New York, was settled, in part, by families from this town. New Hampshire and Vermont both have towns named Groton, though they are comparatively of recent origin. Why they were so called I have been unable to find out, unless it was that the fair fame and reputation of the one in Massachusetts had made the name auspicious.

There was a place in Roxbury, a hundred and thirty years ago, that was sometimes called Groton.* It was a corruption of Greaton, the name of the man who kept the "Grey Hound" tavern in the neighborhood.

The word Groton, the same as the Grotena of Domesday Book, probably means Grit-town, or Sand-town, — from the Anglo-Saxon, *groot*, grit, sand, dust; and *tun*, village or town. The locality of the English Groton is in fact a sandy one. A proper pride of birth would suggest that the name was doubtless also appropriate by reason of the GRIT or pluck, now as well as then, characteristic of the people of any town so named.

Groton, in Suffolk, England, is an ancient place, — there being a record in Domesday Book of its population and wealth, in some detail, at the time of William the Conqueror, and also before him, under the Anglo-Saxon King, Edward the Confessor. A literal translation of this census-return of seven hundred and ninety years ago is as follows: —

"In the time of King Edward † saint Edmund held Groton for a manor, one carucate ‡ and a half of land. Always [there were] 8 villeins and 5 bordarii [a rather higher sort of serfs; cotters]. Always [there was] 1 plough in demesne. Always 2 ploughs of homagers" [tenants] "and 1 acre of meadow. A mill, for winter. Always 1 work-horse and 7 cattle and 16 swine and 30 sheep and 2 free men of half a carucate of land and they could give and sell their land. Seven bordarii. Always 1 plough & 1 acre of meadow" [belonging to these 7 bordarii.] "Then" [i.e., under King Edward] "it was worth 30 shillings, and now 40. It has in length 7 furlongs and 4 in breadth. In the same, 12 free men and they have 1 carucate and it is worth 20 shillings. All these could give and sell their land in the time of King Edward. Saint Edmond has the

* New England Historical and Genealogical Register, xxiv. 56 note, 60.

† Some idea of the condensed character of the entries in Domesday Book may be gathered from the following transcript of the Latin beginning of the account of Groton, in which the matter within the brackets is what the Norman scribe omitted: "Grotena[m] t[empore] r[egis] E[dvardi] ten[uit] S[anctus] e[dmundus] p[ro] man[erio]," etc.

‡ The carucate was a "plough land," and is variously set at from twelve to one hundred acres.

soc, protection and servitude" [i.e., the lord's legal rights]. "7 pence of gelt" [i.e., Dane-geld], "but others hold there."

Such were the census returns, made nearly eight hundred years ago, of the place from which our good old name is taken, and which on that account will always be of interest to us.

It is curious to note the different ways which our fathers had of spelling the name; and the same persons took little or no care to write it uniformly. In those days, they paid scarcely any attention to what is now regarded as an important branch of education. Among the documents and papers that I have had occasion to consult and use in the preparation of this address, I find the word spelled in fourteen different ways; viz., Groton, Grotton, Groten, Grotten, Groaton, Groatton, Groaten, Grooton, Grauton, Grawten, Grawton, Growton, Groughton, and Croaton.

Dictionaries of our language were hardly known at that time and there was no standard for spelling; and it seems as if every one spelled according to his feelings at the moment. In many cases the odder the form, the better. As an instance of orthographic license then prevalent, it may be mentioned that there are sixty-five different modes in which the name of Shakespeare was written.

Yonder river, familiar to us as the Nashua, is spoken of, in a record by Thomas Noyes, in 1659, as the Groaten River, and is so called in more than one place. While this would have gratified our local pride, I am not sorry that the name *Nashua* was finally kept. It is to be regretted that so few of the Indian words have been retained by us to designate the rivers and the hills and other localities. However much such words may have been twisted and distorted by English pronunciation and misapplication, they furnish us now with one of the few links that connect us with prehistoric times in America. The word *Nashua*,* in its fullness and before it was clipped, meant *the land between*, and referred to the tract on which Lancaster was settled, because it was *between* the branches of the river; the name, however,

* Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, II. 33.

was afterward transferred from the territory to the river itself.

Among the earliest papers at the State House, relating to the town, is a request for a brandmark. Joseph Parker represents to the Governor and magistrates, in a writing dated May 31, 1666, that he has been chosen constable, and asks that the letters GR — or monogram, as we should call it — be recorded as the brandmark of the town. This was wanted probably for marking cattle. "In answer to this motion the Deputies approve of y^e letter GR to be y^e brand marke of groaten."¹

Very soon after the settlement of the town, there was a complaint of improper management on the part of the proprietors, and the General Court appointed a committee to look into the subject. This committee visited the place, and reported on "the entanglements that have obstructed the planting thereof," giving at the same time their opinion that there was land enough here to furnish subsistence by husbandry to sixty families. When we consider that this opinion was the result of deliberate calculation, on the part of disinterested men, before the town was shorn of its original dimensions, it shows the vanity of human prophecy, and should serve as a warning to us all to abstain from prediction in regard to a century hence. There are now nearly ten thousand persons in the territory of the original Groton Plantation, living mainly by the products of the land.

For some years before the destruction of the town, the Indians began to threaten the inhabitants. They were troublesome neighbors at the best, and their movements required careful watching. Some of them were friendly, but others were hostile and treacherous. They had already acquired the taste for strong drink, and, on more than one occasion, drunken brawls and fights, which ended in murder, had taken place between them and the settlers. In May, 1668, Captain Richard Waldron built a trucking or trading house at Pennicook, now Concord, New Hampshire, where a few weeks afterward Thomas Dickinson was murdered by an Indian; and "rum did it." The affair created great

excitement, and it has been supposed that it prevented a settlement of the place at that time; at any rate, none was made until 1726. A warrant was issued to the constable of Groton to summon John Page, Thomas Tarbell, Jr., Joseph Blood, and Robert Parish, all of this town, to appear before the General Court at Boston to give their testimony, which they did under oath. It appeared in the evidence that there had been a drunken row, and that Tohaunto, the chief, desired them, if they had brought any liquor, to pour it on the ground; for, said he, it will make the Indians "all one Divill." From this it would seem that rum in those days was about the same as it is now, — no better and no worse, — for it still makes people all one devil.²

Many of the Indians had now been supplied with fire-arms, which made them bold and insolent, and it is not strange that the natural tendency of events should have been toward open hostilities. We can readily understand how the fears of the colonists were excited when they thought of their own helpless families and their exposed situation. It betokened no cowardice to entertain this feeling, and it was the part of wisdom to prepare for the worst. At an early day there was a military organization in the town, and we find the following order in the Massachusetts Records, passed Oct. 15, 1673, in relation to it:—

"The military company of Groaten being distitut of military officers, the Court judgeth it meet to choose & appoint James Parker to be their captaine, W^m Lakin to be leiftennant, & Nathaniel Lawrence to be their ensigne."

The thunder of the distant storm now began to be heard, and the colonists were asking for protection. They little thought that the lightning was to strike so soon and with such fatal violence; but in the providence of God it was thus ordained.

Captain Parker writes to Governor Leverett, under date of Aug. 25, 1675, that the inhabitants "are in a very great strait," and "are very much discouraged in their spirits"; that they want ammunition and twenty good muskets for

their picked men. The letter * itself, with the quaint expressions of two centuries ago, will give you a better idea of their narrow circumstances than any extracts from it; so I read it entire:—

“To the honourd John Leueret Esquir Gouvernour of the Massechusetts collony

“Honoured Sir with the rest of your counsell I have made bold to enform your worships how the case stand with us that the Indians are aproach^s near to us our scouts have discoverd severall tracks very near the habitable parts of the town and one Indian they discoverd but escapt from them by Skulking amongst the bushes and som of the Inhabitants of our town have heard them in the night singing and halloeing. which doe determin to us their great height of Insolency: we are in a very great strait our Inhabitants are very much discouraged in their spirits and theirby dissuaded from their callings I have received 20 men from the worshipfull Major Willard and Captain Mosselly men to help secur our town, but notwithstanding we are in a very weak capacity to defend ourselves against the Insolency and potency of the enemy if they shold appear in number and with that violenc that they did appear at quabog [Brookfield] the which the good lord forbid if it be his good pleasur, much honoured and respected the good lord be with you In your consultations that you may understand what to doe for your new england Israel at such a tim as this and in particular ourselves and for our dear neighbours at Lancaster upon whom the enemy have made an Inraid 6 persons are already found and buryed the 72 which they doe expect is kild is not as yet found you may be pleased to tak notice that we shall want ammunition spedily by reason that we have parted with som to Cap^t Mosselly men and som we spent in the fight at quabog as also I have suplyed the souldiers with a^munition that were sent to me that was Employed in the service they having spent their ammunition If you could help us with 20 good muskets for our pik men and I will return them again or else give a valluable price for them in such pay as we can produce among ourselves not else at present but leave you to the guidance of the God of heaven who is the only wise counsellor and remaine

“Your servant to comānd in any service to my power

“JAMES PARKER Cap^t

“from Groten
August 25 75”

* Massachusetts Archives, LXVII. 244.

A few days before the date of this letter, Captain Samuel Moseley writes * from "Nashoway Allias Lancaster: 16th Augst 1675," that, in accordance with instructions from Major-General Dennison, he had sent "12 men to Groat-ton."

In those days, there was no physician in town to offer his professional skill to the government in their time of need; and it was necessary to impress into the public service a surgeon, as well as a horse and accoutrements, as we find from the following order * addressed

"TO THE CONSTABLE OF BOSTON.

"These Require you in his Maj^{ty}s name forthwith to Impresse Mr W^m Haukins Chirurgeon: Imediately to prepare himself wth materials as Chirurgeon & to dispatch to Marlboro. to Cap^t Mosely & attend his motion & souldiers at Groaten. or elsewhere: for wch End you are also to Impresse an able horse & furniture for him to Goe: wth the Post

"Dated at Boston 17 August 1675 making Return hereof to the Secret^y

By y^e Council

"EDW. RAWSON Secret^y"

And the constable made the indorsement on the order that Dr. Hawkins was duly warned.

At this time, King Philip's War had begun, and open hostilities had alarmed the inhabitants of this place. The Council passed an order,* Sept. 8, 1675, that Cornet Thomas Brattle and Lieutenant Thomas Henschman should take fifty men, of which thirty were to come from Norfolk and twenty from Middlesex, and place them in the garrisons of Dunstable, Groton, and Lancaster, in such proportions as they should deem expedient. They were to place them "under the comānd of the chiefe military officers of each towne: giving those officers direction: to joyne & lyst other meet persons of their owne companyes with them, &

* Massachusetts Archives, LXVII. 239, 241, 252.

order them every day to surround the townes y^ey are to secure; & if they can to carry doggs with y^m to search for & discover any enemy that may aproch nere such towne & at night to repaire unto such corps du gaurd, as are appointed to them for the security of the s^d place.”

About this time, the question of withdrawing a considerable force from the garrisons seems to have been considered; but a protest against such action was drawn up and signed by Simon Willard and three others, who were probably the officers in command. From the representation they made, it is not likely that any troops were taken away.³

In the autumn (October 27) of this year, the town was assessed £11 10s. as her rate to carry on the war; and, when paid in money, one-quarter to be abated.

The coming winter must have been a hard one for the colonists, not only here but throughout New England. The Indians had burned some towns and threatened others, and it was a season of distrust and despair. The time was rapidly approaching for this town to suffer, and soon the stroke came. They would have been more than human if they had not felt despondent at the hard fate that had now befallen them. They had seen their houses and barns burned, and all the results of their labor and thrift destroyed in a day. The little meeting-house, rudely constructed but no less dear to them, was now a heap of ashes. To-day its very site is unknown. Some words of consolation, and exhortation to trust in the providence of God, fell from the lips of their good pastor, Mr. Willard, as they looked tearfully on their ruined homes. He had been their guide and teacher during thirteen years; and much that is interesting is known concerning him.

Samuel Willard was born, Jan. 31, 1639-40, at Concord, Massachusetts. He was the son of Major Simon Willard, at one time an inhabitant of this town, and graduated at Harvard College in the year 1659; being the only member of the class who took his second degree. He came here to succeed Mr. John Miller, the first minister of the town, who died, June 12, 1663. Mr. Willard began to preach probably

late in the year 1662, or early in 1663. In the latter year, on the twenty-first of some month, — conjectured to be June, the words of the records being so worn as to be illegible, — it was “voted that Mr. Willard, if he will accept, shall be their minister as long as he lives.” Against this action there were five dissentient votes, which number constituted probably one-quarter of all the voters; and they certainly were among the principal and most influential inhabitants of the town. Mr. Willard must have been a man of a good deal of character to have been settled in spite of this opposition, and he seems to have lived it down very successfully. His relations with the people were always harmonious; and his salary was gradually increased until it was double the original amount. The first year of his ministry, it was fixed at forty pounds; the second year, at fifty pounds; the third and several successive years, at sixty pounds; and finally at eighty, part of it being in country pay. This was the old expression for paying in produce. And when the salary was voted, Oct. 14, 1672, it was reckoned at five shillings a bushel for wheat; four shillings for rye, barley, and peas; with pork and beef at three pence a pound; “and all such as cannot pay his third part of his pay in English corn and provisions, they shall pay in Indian corn at two shillings per bushel; and the remainder of his pay in Indian corn at three shillings a bushel: his firewood also above his eighty pounds. And farther these persons here set down [Sergeant Parker and eleven others] do promise and engage to get Mr. Willard’s hay, mowing and making and fetching home for eight shillings per load, at a seasonable time, viz., in the middle of July.”

Mr. Willard was a scholar and writer of considerable note in his day, and even now would be considered such. But little is known of his early history; and no church-record during his ministry in Groton is extant. Coming here in the vigor of young manhood, at the age of twenty-three, — if we may judge him from the high position he afterward attained, — it is fair to assume that he exerted a strong influence in this neighborhood. It is probable that his early

experiences here fitted him for the places of honor and dignity that he was subsequently called upon to fill. A few weeks after his settlement, he married Abigail Sherman, a grand-daughter of Thomas Darcy, Earl of Rivers; and, after her death, he married, as his second wife, Eunice, daughter of Edward Tyng. He had a large family of children, of whom five were born in this town. One of his great-grandsons, Robert Treat Paine, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In the year 1673, Mr. Willard published a volume of sermons entitled, "Useful Instructions for a professing People in Times of great Security and Degeneracy: delivered in several Sermons on Solemn Occasions."

It consists of three sermons, of which one was preached on the occasion of a case of witchcraft that I shall mention shortly. It is evident, from a reference in the sermon, that the fame or notoriety of the case had spread far from this town. Mr. Willard says: "There is a voice in it to the whole Land, but in a more especial manner to poor *Groton*; it is not a Judgement afar off, but it is near us, yea among us."

The book is inscribed, "To his Beloved Friends the Inhabitants of Groton." Like all the publications of that time, it is purely theological, and contains nothing now of particular interest. If he had given us even a few lines of town history, it would be almost invaluable. We look in vain through its pages for any thing that throws light on the manners and customs of the early settlers. We do find, however, the modes and habits of thought that were prevalent in those days; and with these we must be content, for the sermons furnish nothing more.

In the year 1671, there occurred here a case of so-called witchcraft, and to this Mr. Willard gave much time and attention. He wrote a very long letter* to Cotton Mather, giving the minutest details in regard to it, and Dr. Mather

* Mr. Willard's letter is printed in full in the "Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society," volume VIII., fourth series, page 555.

refers to the case in his "Magnalia Christi Americana" (Book vi., chapter 7, page 67). The victim of the witchcraft was one Elizabeth Knap, who had the long train of symptoms which then were usually ascribed to the personal influence of the Evil One, but which nowadays would constitute a well-marked case of hysteria. From an expression in Mr. Willard's letter, we learn that the girl went to school in his house, from which fact we infer that the minister of the town was also the teacher of the children. At one time his residence was used as a meeting-house, and now as a school-house. Its exact locality is not known to us, though it was in the present Main Street. From another expression in the letter, we learn there was "a great meadow neere the house," which could be seen from one of the windows in a lower room.

The assault by the Indians on the town was followed by the breaking up of the place and the scattering of the inhabitants. Mr. Willard never returned to his pastorate. Soon afterward he was installed over the Old South Church in Boston, as the colleague of the Reverend Thomas Thacher. In the year 1701, he was chosen Vice-president of Harvard College, which office he filled till his death, at the same time performing the duties of minister of the Old South. His connection with the College was really that of President, although he was called the Vice-president. The distinction was nominal rather than real. The President was obliged by the Constitution to live at Cambridge, and this he was unwilling to do; so he acted as such without the title.

As minister of the Old South, Mr. Willard baptized Benjamin Franklin. The young philosopher was born in Milk Street, directly opposite the church, whither he was taken to receive the sacrament of baptism while yet his earthly pilgrimage was limited to a few hours of time.

Mr. Willard's health began to fail, as he approached his three score years and ten, the period of life allotted by the Psalmist, and he presided for the last time at the College Commencement, in July, 1707. In August, the Governor and Council were notified that he was not capable of doing

the work at Cambridge for another year. He died, September 12, 1707.

Dr. Pemberton, in his funeral sermon, says of him that, "His Master committed to his Pastoral Care a Flock in a more obscure part of this Wilderness. But so great a Light was soon observed thro' the whole Land. And his Lord did not design to bury him in obscurity, but to place him in a more eminent station which he was qualified for."

Several printed accounts of King Philip's War appeared very soon after it was ended; and these furnish nearly all that is known in regard to it. In those days, there was no special correspondent on the spot to get the news; and, as the facilities for intercommunication were limited, these accounts differ somewhat in the details, but, taken as a whole, they are sufficiently accurate.

The loss of life or limb sustained by the English at this attack on Groton, fortunately, was not great. So far as is now known, only one person was killed and two wounded. It is recorded, however, that John Morse was carried off; but he did not remain a prisoner for a long time. Within a few months of his capture, he was ransomed by Mr. John Hubbard, of Boston, who paid about five pounds for his release. This sum was soon afterward reimbursed to Mr. Hubbard by a vote of the Council.⁴

These contemporaneous accounts of the assault⁵ on the town are all short, with the exception of Hubbard's; and I purpose to give them, in the words of the writers, for what they are worth. The first is from "A Brief History of the Warr with the Indians in Newe-England," by Increase Mather, published in the year 1676. This account — probably the earliest in print — is as follows: —

"March 10th. Mischief was done, and several lives cut off by the *Indians* this day, at *Groton* and at *Sudbury*. An humbling Providence, inasmuch as many Churches were this day Fasting and Praying." (Page 23.)

"*March* 13. The *Indians* assaulted *Groton*, and left but few houses standing. So that this day also another Candlestick was removed out of its place. One of the first houses that the Enemy

destroyed in this place was the *House of God*, *h.e.* which was built, and set apart for the celebration of the publick Worship of God.

“When they had done that, they scoffed and blasphemed, and came to Mr. *Willard* (the worthy Pastor of the Church there) his house (which being Fortified, they attempted not to destroy it) and tauntingly, said, *What will you do for a house to pray in now we have burnt your Meeting-house?* Thus hath the Enemy done wickedly in the Sanctuary, they have burnt up the Synagogues of God in the Land; they have cast fire into the Sanctuary; they have cast down the dwelling place of his name to the Ground. *O God, how long shall the Adversary reproach? shall the Enemy Blaspheme thy Name for ever? why withdrawest thou thine hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosome.*” (Page 24.)

Several accounts of the war appeared in London in 1676, only a few months after the destruction of this town. They were written in New England, and sent to Old England, where they were at once published in thin pamphlets. The authors of them are now unknown; but they undoubtedly gathered their materials from hearsay. At that time, Indian affairs in New England attracted a good deal of attention in the mother country. One of these pamphlets is entitled, “A True Account of the most Considerable Occurrences that have hapned in the Warre between the English and the Indians in New England,” “as it hath been communicated by Letters to a Friend in London.”

This account says that, —

“On the 13th of *March*, before our Forces could return towards our *Parts*, the *Indians* sent a strong party, and assaulted the Town of *Growton*, about forty miles North-west from *Boston*, and burn’d all the deserted Houses; the Garrison’d Houses, which were about ten, all escaped but one, which they carryed, but not the *English* in it; for there was but one slain and two wounded.” (Page 2.)

Another account, entitled, “A New and Further Narration of the State of New England, being a continued account of the Bloody Indian-war,” gives the following version: —

“The 14th of *March* the savage Enemy set upon a Considerable Town called *Groughton*, and burnt Major Wilberds House first

(who with his family removed to *Charls Town*) and afterwards destroyed sixty Five dwelling-houses more there, leaving but six houses standing in the whole Town, which they likewise furiously attempted to set on fire ; But being fortified with Arms and Men as Garrisons, they with their shot, killed several of the enemy, and prevented so much of their designe ; Nor do we hear that any person on our side was here either slain or taken captive." (Page 4.)

A few pages further on, it says that "*Grantham* and *Nash-away* all ruined but one house or two." (Page 14.) Few persons would recognize this town under the disguise of *Grantham*.

Another one of these London pamphlets, bearing the title of "News from New England," says, —

"The 7th of *March* following these blood Indians march't to a considerable Town called *Croaton*, where first they set Fire to Major *Willard's* House, and afterwards burnt 65 more, there being Seaventy two Houses at first, so that there was left standing but six Houses of the whole Town." (Page 4.)

After these attacks, the town was deserted, and the inhabitants scattered in different directions among their friends and kindred. The war was soon ended ; though it was nearly three years before the early pioneers ventured back to their old homes, around which still clustered many tender associations as well as sad recollections. It is recorded that other families came back with them. They returned, however, to meet hardships that would have overcome ordinary men. Several town-meetings were held to consider their present needs ; and it was voted at one of them to petition the General Court that they be relieved temporarily from country charges.⁶ The petition sets forth that, under Divine Providence, they had been great sufferers in the late war with the heathenish enemy ; that they had been subjected to grievous losses and privations ; but, at the same time, they expressed gratitude to their Heavenly Father that they had the liberty and opportunity to return. They saw with the eye of faith the hand of God in all their trials. This consolation alone supported them, for they knew that with Him on their side their troubles would disappear, and all would yet be well. In their letters and petitions, their humble faith in the providence of

God is conspicuous. It furnishes the key-note to many of their actions that would otherwise seem unaccountable. In judging them, we should take the standard of their times and not that of our day. The scales should be carefully adjusted to the habits of that period when there were no public amusements, no popular reading in the shape of books and newspapers, and but little relaxation from toil.

In those early days, there was no variety store, or trader's shop, as now, where people could collect to while away long evenings, and to interchange opinions. The roads were so rough as to be passable only with rude carts, and carriages were a luxury unknown. The men rode to church on horseback, with their wives seated behind them on pillions. The woman made sure of her position by holding on to the man with her right arm. This mode of travel is supposed not to have been unpopular with the young folks.

At a very early period, the road to the Bay, as it was called, — that is, to Boston, — was by the circuitous route through Chelmsford and Billerica, where there was a bridge built by several towns, — of which Groton was one, — and supported jointly by them for many years. In the year 1699, the towns of Groton, Chelmsford, and Billerica were engaged in a controversy * about the proportion of expense which each one should bear in building the bridge. The General Court settled the dispute by ordering this town to pay twenty-four pounds and ten shillings as her share in full, with no future liabilities.

The lives of our forefathers were one ceaseless struggle for existence; and there was no time or opportunity to cultivate those graces which we now consider so essential. If they were stern and austere, at the same time they were virtuous and conscientious. Religion with them was a living, ever-present power; and in that channel went out all those energies which with us find outlet in many different directions. These considerations should modify the opinions commonly held in regard to the Puritan fathers. The women then were content with domestic duties, and did not seek to take part in public affairs. It is wonderful that no

* Massachusetts Archives, cxxi. 99.

murmur has come down to us expressive of the tyranny of man in withholding from them the rights which are now loudly claimed.

After King Philip's War, the Colonists were at peace with the Indians, but it was a suspicious kind of peace.⁷ It required watching and a show of strength to keep it: there was no good-will between the native race and the white intruders.

Captain Francis Nicholson, writing from Boston to London, Aug. 31, 1688, speaks of the feeling here at that time. He says: * —

“Att night [August 19] I came to Dunstable (about 30 miles from hence) from thence I sent two English men and an Indian to Penecooke about sixty miles up the river Merymeek; the men told me they should be 3 dayes in doeing of it; soe next day I went through Groton and Lancaster, where the people were very much afraid (being out towns) butt I told them as I did other places, that they should nott be soe much cast down, for that they had the happinesse of being subjects of a victorious King, who could protect them from all their enemies.”

The military company of the town was still kept up, and known as the Foot Company; and, during a part of the year 1689, was supported by some cavalry, under the command of Captain Jacob Moore. James Parker, Sen., was appointed the Captain of it; Jonas Prescott, the Lieutenant; and John Lakin, the Ensign: and these appointments were all confirmed by the Governor and Council, at a convention held in Boston, July 13, 1689.† A month later (August 10), Captain Parker was ordered to supply Hezekiah Usher's garrison at Nononiciacus with “three men of the men sent up thither or of the Town's people, for y^e defence of y^t Garrison being of publique concernment.” Groton was one of the four towns that were designated, August 29, as the headquarters of the forces detached for the public service against the common enemy; Casco, Newichewanick (Berwick), and Haverhill being the others. And we find, soon

* Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York, II. 551.

† Massachusetts Archives. LXXXI. 24.

after, an order to send "to the head Quarter at Groton for supply of the Garrison there one Thousand weight of Bread, one barrell of Salt, one barrell of powder three hundred weight of Shott, and three hundred fflints, Six quire of Paper." Eleven troopers were sent hither, September 17, under Cornet John Chubbuck, to relieve Corporal White, who was succeeded by John Pratt. The commissary of the post at this time was Jonathan Remington, who seems to have had but little duty to perform. Shortly afterward, the order came from the Governor and Council to discharge him, as well as Captain Moore and his company of cavalry,* from the public service.⁸

"Jn^o Paige of Groton" † went in the expedition to Canada, in the year 1690, under Major Wade; was wounded in the left arm, and did not entirely recover for two years. His surgeon's bill, amounting to four pounds, was paid out of the public treasury.

These facts show that the early settlers were not leading a life of peace at this time. The orders and counter-orders to even the small garrison tell too well that danger was threatening. The inhabitants had already experienced the cruelty of savage warfare, and knew it to their horror. For some years they had been on the constant alert, and held their lives in their hands. King William's War was now begun. The second attack on the town came in the summer of 1694, and the accounts of it I prefer to give in the words of contemporaneous writers. Sometimes there are discrepancies in such accounts; but, as a whole, they constitute the best authority.⁹

Cotton Mather, in his "Magnalia," thus refers to it:—

"Nor did the Storm go over so: Some Drops of it fell upon the Town of *Groton*, a Town that lay, one would think, far enough off the Place where was the last Scene of the *Tragedy*.

"On *July 27*. [1694] about break of Day *Groton* felt some surprizing Blows from the *Indian Hatchets*. They began their Attacks at the House of one Lieutenant *Lakin*, in the Out-skirts of the *Town*; but met with a Repulse there, and lost one of their

* Massachusetts Archives, LXXXI. 40, 60, 67, 71, 73, 74, 81, 138.

† Massachusetts Archives, XXXVII. 62.

Crew. Nevertheless, in other Parts of that Plantation, (where the good People had been so tired out as to lay down their *Military Watch*) there were more than Twenty Persons killed, and more than a Dozen carried away. Mr. *Gershom Hobart*, the Minister of the Place, with part of his Family, was Remarkably preserved from falling into their Hands, when they made themselves the Masters of his House; though they Took Two of his Children, whereof the one was Killed, and the other some time after happily Rescued out of his Captivity." (Book vii. page 86.)

Charlevoix, a French missionary in Canada, gives from his own standpoint another version,* as follows:—

"The Abénaqui chief was Taxous, already celebrated for many exploits, and commendable attachment to our interests. This brave man, not satisfied with what he had just so valiantly achieved, chose forty of his most active men, and, after three days' march, by making a long circuit, arrived at the foot of a fort [at Groton] near Boston, and attacked it in broad day. The English made a better defence than they did at Pescadoué [Piscataqua]. Taxous had two of his nephews killed by his side, and himself received more than a dozen musket-balls in his clothes; but he at last carried the place, and then continued his ravages to the very doors of the capital."

The loss of life from this attack was considerably greater than when the town was destroyed and deserted in the year 1676. There were twenty-two persons killed and thirteen captured. The settlement was now more scattered than it was then, and its defence more difficult. For this reason more persons were killed and taken prisoners than when the place was assaulted eighteen years previously. It is said that the scalps of the unfortunate victims were given to Count de Frontenac, Governor of Canada. Among those killed were William Longley, his wife, and four or five of their children; his eldest one, Lydia, a daughter of twenty, and a son named John, were taken prisoners. These two of his family escaped the fury of the savages and were spared. Lydia's name is found in a list of prisoners who were held in Canada, March 5, 1710-11. Within a few years past, a Genealogical Dictionary of Canadian families has been published, from which additional facts are gathered concerning

* History of New France, iv. 257, Shea's edition.

her. This book (page 9) gives her name as Lydia Madeleine Longley, and says that she was the daughter of William and Deliverance [Crisp] Longley, of Groton, where she was born, April 12, 1674. In another place (page 396), she is spoken of as Sister St. Madeleine. She was captured by the Abénaquis, a tribe of Indians who inhabited the territory now included in the State of Maine. She was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church, April 24, 1696, and lived at the Congregation of Notre Dame, in Montreal. She was buried, July 20, 1758.

Her middle name, Madeleine, was doubtless given her when she joined the Roman Church. It is possible that she may have lived for a time among the Indians, as many of the prisoners taken at the same assault were held by them.

John Longley was twelve years old when he was captured. He was carried away, and remained with the Indians for more than four years, — a part of the time being spent in Canada, and the remainder in Maine. At length he was ransomed, but he had become so accustomed to savage life that he left it with great reluctance; and those who brought him away were obliged to use force to accomplish their purpose. He was afterward a useful inhabitant of the town, holding many offices of trust and responsibility.¹⁰

It is recorded that two children of Alexander Rouse, a near neighbor of William Longley, were also killed in the assault of 1694.

Among the English captives redeemed by Mathew Cary, from Quebec, October, 1695, was Thomas Drew, of Groton, and he probably was taken at this same assault.* There was one "Tamasin Rouse of Grotten" received, Jan. 17, 1698-9, on board the "Province Gally" at Casco Bay; and she probably was one of Alexander Rouse's family. She had, doubtless, been a prisoner for four years and a half, — the same length of time as John Longley's captivity. There are many instances of children who were kept for a long time by their captors. We can now hardly realize the bitter anguish felt by the parents over the loss of their little darlings. Bring the case home, and think for a moment, what your feelings

* Massachusetts Archives, xxxviii. A 2.

would be, if that curly-headed boy or smiling girl was snatched from your sight at a moment's notice, and carried off by the wild men of the woods for an uncertain fate. The kidnapping of one little boy in a distant city in our times has caused the hearts of all the mothers in the land to thrill with horror as they heard of the atrocious deed, and to throb in sympathy with the bereaved parents.

In the year 1694, an Act was passed by the General Court, which prohibited the desertion of frontier towns by the inhabitants, unless permission was first granted by the Governor and Council. There were eleven such towns, and Groton was one of them. The law required the inhabitants of these out-towns, who owned land or houses, to take out a special license, on pain of forfeiting their property, before they could quit their homes and live elsewhere. It was thought that the interests of the Crown would be prejudiced, and encouragement given to the enemy, if any of these posts were deserted, or were exposed by lessening their strength. Many towns were threatened by the Indians about this time, and a few were attacked. It is recorded that some of the settlers here left the town, and there was probably a movement among the inhabitants in other places, to do the same. This fact, undoubtedly, occasioned the enactment.

Any thing relating to the brave men who suffered in the Indian wars is now of interest to us, and I offer no apology for giving incidents that may to some persons seem trivial.

Cotton Mather mentions, in his "Magnalia," some instances of "mortal wounds upon the English not proving mortal," and gives the case of an inhabitant of this town, who was in a garrison at Exeter, New Hampshire, when that place was assaulted, July 4, 1690. He says that, —

"It is true, that one *Simon Stone* being here Wounded with Shot in *Nine* several places lay for *Dead* (as it was time!) among the *Dead*. The *Indians* coming to Strip him, attempted with *Two* several Blows of an Hatchet at his *Neck* to cut off *Head*, which Blows added you may be sure, more Enormous Wounds unto those *Port-holes* of *Death*, at which the *Life* of the Poor

Man was already running out as fast as it could. Being charged hard by Lieutenant *Bancroft* they left the Man without *Scalping* him; and the *English* now coming to Bury the *Dead*, one of the Soldiers perceived this poor Man to fetch a Gasp; whereupon an *Irish* Fellow then present, advised 'em to give him another Dab with an Hatchet, and so Bury him with the rest. The *English* detesting this Barbarous Advice, lifted up the Wounded Man, and poured a little *Fair Water* into his Mouth at which he Coughed; then they poured a little *Stroug Water* after it, at which he opened his Eyes. The *Irish* Fellow was ordered now to hale a Canoo ashore to carry the Wounded Men up the River unto a Chirurgeon; and as Teague was foolishly pulling the Canoo ashore with the Cock of his *Gun*, while he held the Muzzle in his *Hand*, his Gun went off and broke his *Arm*, whereof he remains a Cripple to *this Day*: But *Simon Stone* was thoroughly Cured, and is at *this Day* a very Lusty Man; and as he was Born with *Two Thumbs* on one Hand, his Neighbours have thought him to have at least as many *Hearts as Thumbs!*" (Book vii. page 74.)

Many families trace back their line of descent to this same Simon Stone, who was so hard to kill, and to whom, fortunately, the finishing "Dab with an Hatchet" was not given.

Josiah Parker, of Cambridge, petitions the Governor and General Court, May 31, 1699, setting forth the fact that his brother, James Parker, Jr., and his wife were both killed, and several of their children taken prisoners by the Indians, in their assault on the town, in 1694. One of these children, Phinehas by name, was redeemed after four years of captivity at the eastward, by the master of a vessel, who paid six pounds for him. The uncle of the boy represents in the petition that he himself had reimbursed the master, and now wished that this sum be allowed him from the public treasury, which request was duly granted. This poor little orphan boy was only seven years old when carried off by the savages, and the petition relates that he was lame in one of his legs, brought on by the cruelty of his captors.¹¹

It was probably during the attack of 1694, that Enoch Lawrence was wounded. He represented in a petition* to the Governor and Council, that he was a very poor man by reason

* Massachusetts Archives, LXX. 583.

of wounds in his hands received during a fight with the Indians in the former war, which almost wholly disabled him from earning a livelihood for himself and family. In consequence of these representations, the House of Representatives allowed him, October 17, 1702, exemption from taxes, and an annual pension of three pounds during life.

Governor William Stoughton issued a proclamation,* January 21, 1695, and refers to the "tragical outrages and barbarous murders" at Oyster River (now Durham, N. H.) and Groton. He says that several of the prisoners taken at these places "are now detained by the said Indians at Amaras-coggin and other adjoining places."

Cotton Mather says that one man was killed here in 1697, and another, with two children, carried into captivity. The prisoner was Stephen Holden, who was captured, with his two oldest sons, John, and Stephen, Jr. John was released in January, 1699, at which time the father and the other boy were yet remaining in the hands of the savages. It was not long, however, before they too were freed; for, in the following June, the House of Representatives voted three pounds and twelve shillings for the expenses that had been incurred in bringing them back.¹²

After these attacks, there was a short respite, which continued till 1704, when the frontier towns were again exposed to savage warfare; and this town suffered with the others.

Samuel Penhallow, in "A History of the Wars of New England," published in 1726, thus refers to the attack on this place, in August, 1704:—

The Indians "afterwards fell on *Lancaster*, and *Groton*, where they did some Spoil, but not what they expected, for that these Towns were seasonably strengthened. . . .

"And yet a little while after they fell on *Groaton*, and *Nashoway* [*Lancaster*], where they kill'd Lieut. *Wylor* [*Wilder*] and several more." (Page 24.)

A party of Indians, about thirty in number, made their appearance in town, and killed a man on the night of Octo-

* Documents relating to the Colonial History of New York, ix. 613, 614.

ber 25, 1704. Pursuit was at once made for them, but it was unsuccessful.¹³

It is not surprising that the inhabitants, upon the renewal of hostilities, were obliged to ask for help from the General Court. They had already suffered much in life and property, and were little able to bear new burdens. They represented to the Governor that they had been greatly impoverished by their losses of horses and cattle, of corn and hay, and that they were scarcely able to hold out much longer; but the crowning calamity of all was the illness of the minister, Mr. Hobart, which prevented him from preaching. Their means were so limited, that they could not support him and supply his place besides. They were obliged to earn their living at the peril of their lives; and some were thinking of leaving the town. They spent so much time in watching and guarding, that they seemed to be soldiers rather than farmers. Under these discouraging circumstances, they asked for help, and were allowed out of the public treasury twenty pounds, to assist them in procuring another minister, besides ten pounds to be divided among those who were the greatest sufferers in the late attack upon them.¹⁴

Two years later, another assault was made on the town, though with little damage. I again quote from Penhallow:

"[July 21, 1706.] Several Strokes were afterwards made on *Chelmsford, Sudbury* and *Groton*, where three Soldiers as they were going to publick Worship, were way-laid by a Small Party, who kill'd two, and made the other a Prisoner." (Page 36.)

A few additional particulars of these "strokes" are found in the Reverend John Pike's "Journal," under this entry: *

"July 21, 1706. Sab: 2 souldiers slain & one carried away by the enemy at Groton. They were all new-Cambridge [Newton] men, & were returned to their Post from one Bloods house, who had invited y^m to Dinner."

The Reverend Mr. Homer, in his "History of Newton," gives the names of these men as John Myrick, Nathaniel Healy, and Ebenezer Seger, and says they were all three

* Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1875-76, page 143.

killed by the Indians. This statement is not quite accurate, as John Myrick was alive after this date. Only two were killed.

Penhallow gives several instances of extreme cruelty to the prisoners on the part of the savages, and mentions the following case of a man who was captured in this town : —

“ A third was of *Samuel Butterfield*, who being sent to *Groton* as a Soldier, was with others attackt, as they were gathering in the Harvest ; his bravery was such, that he kill'd one and wounded another, but being overpower'd by strength, was forc'd to submit ; and it hapned that the slain *Indian* was a *Sagamore*, and of great dexterity in War, which caused matter of Lamentation, and enrag'd them to such degree that they vow'd the utmost revenge ; Some were for whipping him to Death ; others for burning him alive ; but differing in their Sentiments, they submitted the Issue to the *Squaw Widow*, concluding she would determine something very dreadful, but when the matter was opened, and the Fact considered, her Spirits were so moderate as to make no other reply, than, “ *Fortune L'guare*. Upon which some were uneasy ; to whom she answered, *If by killing him, you can bring my Husband to life again, I beg you to study what Death you please ; but if not let him be my Servant ;* which he accordingly was, during his Captivity, and had favour shewn him.” (Pages 38, 39.)

Butterfield remained a captive for more than a year. It is not known how he obtained his release. We find his petition,* dated April 10, 1706, to the General Court, which sets forth the fact that he was an inhabitant of Chelmsford, and was sent by Captain Jerathmel Bowers to Groton, to help Colonel Taylor, in August, 1704, when the enemy came upon the place. He was ordered, with some others, to guard a man at work in the field, when the Indians attacked them, killed one, and captured another besides himself. Butterfield represents, in the petition, that he “ made all the resistance possible, killed one, and knockt down two more after they had seized him, for which yo^r Petitioner was cruelly used by them afterwards & threatened to be burnt, several times.” He says that he “ was very well accoutred in all respects when he was taken, and then was stript of all and was between fourteen and fifteen months a Captive expos'd to great

* Massachusetts Archives, LXXI. 195.

hardships, and has sustained great Loss and damage." In consideration of his loss and service, he was allowed the sum of ten pounds out of the public treasury.

A man was killed here, June 12, 1707. His name was Brown, and he is spoken of in Pike's "Journal" as Mr. Bradstreet's man.

In a list of prisoners in the hands of the French and Indians at Canada,* March 5, 1710-11, we find the names of "Zech: Tarbal, John Tarbal, Sarah Tarbal, Matt. Farnsworth [and] Lydia Longley," all of Groton, though there is nothing in the record to show when they were captured. With the exception of Lydia Longley, they were probably taken between 1704 and 1708. In the spring of 1739, the capture of the Tarbell boys is spoken of as occurring "above thirty Years ago," and it is said that Zechariah was so young at the time that he lost his native language. The town records show that he was born January 25, 1700, and John, July 6, 1695. Sarah Tarbell was undoubtedly a sister of the boys, and was probably taken at the same time with them. I have been unable to find out what became of her, as all tradition on this point is lost. The history of the two brothers is a very singular one, and sounds more like fiction than truth. They were sons of Thomas Tarbell, who had a large family of children and lived on what is now known as Farmers' Row, a short distance south of the Lawrence farm. He was probably the "Corp^o Tarboll," who commanded, in the autumn of 1711, one of the eighteen garrisons in the town. The two boys were picking cherries early one evening — so tradition relates — and were taken by the Indians before they had time to get down from the tree. They were carried to Canada, where, it would seem, they were treated kindly.

In the year 1713, John Stoddard and John Williams were appointed by Governor Joseph Dudley, to go to Quebec and treat with the Governor-General of Canada for the release of the New England prisoners. They were accompanied by Thomas Tarbell, — probably the elder brother of the boys, — as we find his petition presented to the House of Representa-

* Massachusetts Archives, LXXI. 765.

tives, June 1, 1715, "praying consideration and allowance for his Time and Expences in going to *Canada*, with Major *Stoddard* & Mr. *Williams*, Anno 1713. to recover the Captives."

The petition was referred, and, on the next day, —

"Capt. *Noyes* from the Committee for Petitions, made Report on the Petition of *Thomas Tarboll*, viz. That they are of Opinion that nothing is due from the Province to the said *Tarboll*, since he proceeded as a Volunteer in that Service to *Canada*, & not imployed by the Government, but recommended him to the favour of the House."

The report was accepted, and, in consideration of *Tarboll's* services, he was allowed ten pounds out of the public treasury. Captain *Stoddard's* "Journal" of the negotiations is printed in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register," for January, 1851 (v. 26), and *Tarboll's* name is mentioned in it.

We find no further trace of these boys, now grown up to manhood, for nearly twenty-five years, when Governor *Belcher* brought their case, April 20, 1739, before the Council and the House of Representatives. He then made a speech in which he said that, —

"There are lately come from *Canada* some Persons that were taken by the Indians from *Groton* above thirty Years ago, who (its believed) may be induced to return into this Province, on your giving them some proper Encouragement: If this Matter might be effected, I should think it would be not only an Act of Compassion in order to reclaim them from the Errors and Delusions of the Romish Faith; but their living among us might, in Time to come, be of great Advantage to the Province."

The subject was referred the same day to a Committee consisting of *John Read*, of *Boston*, *William Fairfield*, of *Wenham*, *Thomas Wells*, of *Deerfield*, *Benjamin Browne*, of *Salem*, and *Job Almy*, of *Tiverton*. On the next day, April 21 — as we read in the printed "Journal" of the House of Representatives — the chairman of

"The Committee appointed to consider that Paragraph in His Excellency's SPEECH relating to the Encouragement of two English Captives from *Canada*, viz. *John Tharbell* and *Zechariah Tharbell*, made report thereon, which he read in his Place, and then delivered it at the Table; and after some debate thereon, the House did not accept the Report; and having considered the same

Article by Article, the House came into a Vote thereon, and sent the same up to the honourable Board for concurrence."

On the 23d, we find

"A Petition of *Thomas Tharbell* of *Groton*, Elder Brother of the two Mr. *Tharbells* lately returned from Captivity in *Canada*, praying he may be allowed the Loan of some Money to enable him to pay *William Rogers*, jun. his Account of Charges in bringing his Brethren to *Boston*. Read and Ordered, That the Petition be considered to morrow morning."

On the next day, —

"The House pass'd a Vote on the Petition of *Thomas Tharbell* of *Groton*, praying as entred the 23d current, and sent the same up to the honourable Board for Concurrence."

All these efforts, however, to reclaim the two men from savage life proved unavailing; for it is known that they remained with the Indians and became naturalized, if I may use the expression. They married Indian wives, and were afterward made chiefs at *Caughnawaga* and *St. Regis*, villages in *Canada*. Their descendants are still living among the Indians, and the *Tarbells* of the present day, in this town, are their collateral kindred. Nearly forty years after their capture, Governor *Hutchinson* met them in *New York* State, and refers to them thus :—

"I saw at *Albany* two or three men, in the year 1744, who came in with the Indians to trade, and who had been taken at *Groton* in this, that is called *Queen Ann's* war. One of them — *Tarbell*, was said to be one of the wealthiest of the *Cagnawaga* tribe. He made a visit in his Indian dress and with his Indian complexion (for by means of grease and paints but little difference could be discerned) to his relations at *Groton*, but had no inclination to remain there." — *Hutchinson's "History of Massachusetts,"* II. 139.

This is another account :—

"It is related that, about a century and a half ago, while a couple of boys and a girl were playing in a barn at *Groton*, *Massachusetts*, some Indians suddenly appeared, seized the boys and fled, carrying them to the village of *Caughnawaga*, nine miles above *Montreal*. They grew up with Indian habits, manners, and language, being finally adopted as members of the tribe; and married Indian brides selected from the daughters of the principal chiefs." — "*The Galaxy*," for January, 1870, page 124.

The people must have lived in constant dread of the Indians during most of Queen Anne's war. Sometimes an outlying farmhouse was attacked and burned, some of the inmates killed and others carried away in captivity; sometimes the farmer was shot down while at labor in the field, or while going or coming. This was the fate of John Shattuck and his son, John, a young man about twenty years of age, who were killed May 8, 1709.

At another time, the date of which is not recorded, the house of John Shepley was burned, and himself and all his family were massacred, except his young son, John. There may have been some special spite against him, because some years before he had killed an Indian; for which act he received from the General Court a bounty of four pounds.¹⁵ This boy, John, the savages carried away with them and held as captive during several years. But as is often said, where there is great loss, there is some little gain. The knowledge which he obtained of their language and customs while a prisoner was of much use to him in dealing with them in after-life. Tradition relates that, when buying furs and skins of the Indians, he used to put his foot in one scale of the balance instead of a pound weight. He is the direct ancestor of the Honorable Ether Shepley, formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Maine, and of General George F. Shepley, now a Justice of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit of the United States.

Near the end of Queen Anne's war, we find a list of eighteen garrisons in this town containing, in all, fifty-eight families, or three hundred and seventy-eight souls. Of these, seventeen were soldiers in the public service.¹⁶

The military company at this post, in the summer of 1724, was made up of soldiers from different towns in this part of the State, and was commanded by Lieutenant Jabez Fairbanks. Some of them were detailed as guards to protect the more exposed garrisons, and others were scouting in the neighborhood. They were so scattered that the commanding officer found it difficult to drill them as a company. Fortunately, however, they were not engaged in much fight-

ing, though the enemy had been lurking in the neighborhood, and threatening the town. Penhallow, in speaking of the Indians at this time, says that, —

“The next damage they did, was at *Groton*, but were so closely pursued, that they left several of their Packs behind.” (Page 102.)

Thirteen of Lieutenant Fairbanks's company belonged here, and represented some of the most influential families in the place.¹⁷

It was on the ninth day of July of this year, that John Ames was shot by an Indian, one of a small party that attacked Ames's garrison in the westerly part of the town. It is said that he was the last person killed by an Indian within the township. The Indian himself was immediately afterward shot by Jacob Ames, one of John's sons.¹⁸

Governor Saltonstall, of Connecticut, writes * from New London, under date of July 23, 1724, that the friendly Indians of that neighborhood seem inclined to hunt for scalps about Monadnock and the farther side of Dunstable and Groton. This was owing to an offer made about this time by the governments of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, of a bounty of a hundred pounds for every Indian's scalp that should be taken and shown to the proper authorities. This expedient stimulated volunteers to scour the wilderness for the purpose of hunting Indians, and Captain John Lovewell, of Dunstable, organized a company, which soon became famous.

The story of Lovewell's fight was for a long time told in every household in this neighborhood, and there is scarcely a person who has not heard from early infancy the particulars of that eventful conflict. It was in the spring of the year 1725, that Captain Lovewell, with thirty-four men, fought a famous Indian chief, named Paugus, at the head of about eighty savages, near the shores of a pond in Pequawket. Of this little Spartan band, seven belonged in this town; and one of them, John Chamberlain by name, distin-

* Massachusetts Archives, LII. 23.

gushed himself by killing the Indian leader. It is fit that a reference to this fight should be made, on this occasion, though time does not allow me to dwell upon it.

The town, now no longer on the frontiers, was again threatened with danger near the end of King George's war. A company of thirty-two men, under the command of Captain Thomas Tarbell, scouted in this vicinity for six days in July, 1748, but they do not appear to have discovered the enemy. A few days afterward, another company of thirty-six men was sent on a similar expedition, but with no better success.¹⁹ In the rolls of these two companies we find many names that have been prominent in the annals of the town from its very beginning. Among them are the Prescotts, the Amesese, the Bancrofts, the Shepleys, the Parkers, a son of Parson Bradstreet, and a grandson of Parson Hobart.

The military service of Groton men was not confined to this neighborhood. Daniel Farmer, a Groton soldier, was taken prisoner, July 14, 1748, in a skirmish with the Indians, near Fort Dummer.* He was carried to Canada and kept till the following October, when he was allowed to return home.

Fort Dummer was situated on the west bank of the Connecticut River, in the present town of Brattleborough, Vt. Two of its early commanders had been connected with Groton by the ties of kindred. Colonel Josiah Willard, in command of the fort for many years, was a grandson of Parson Willard; and he was succeeded in command by Lieutenant Dudley Bradstreet, a son of Parson Bradstreet, and a native of this place.

Ebenezer Farnsworth, born in Groton, was captured Aug. 30, 1754, by the St. Francis Indians, at Charlestown, N.H.† He was taken to Montreal and held a prisoner during three years. His ransom was paid in the summer of 1755, but he was not then set at liberty. Mrs. Johnson and her sister, Miriam Willard, were captured at the same time. They were both daughters of Moses Willard, who had formerly lived in the south part of this town.

* Hall's History of Eastern Vermont, page 50.

† A Narrative of the Captivity of Mrs. Johnson, pp. 81, 96.

During the French and Indian War, the territory of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, fell under British authority; and the conquest was followed by a terrible act of cruelty and violence. The simple Acadians, unsuspecting of the designs of the English leaders, were assembled in their churches, in obedience to military proclamation, and thence, without being allowed to return to their homes, were driven at the point of the bayonet on board ships, to be scattered over all the English colonies in America. This was done with so little regard to humanity that, in many instances, wives were separated from husbands, and children from parents, never to see one another again. Many an Evangeline waited in vain expectation of being re-united to her Gabriel, thus torn away from her. Two of these French families, ten persons in all, were sent to Groton, where one of the mothers died, not many months after her arrival, perhaps, from the rude transplanting. A few years later, a French family — perhaps one of these two — is mentioned as living here; but the household had become divided, some of the little children being sent to the neighboring towns. Our pity for these unfortunate people will be stronger when we reflect that they were miserably poor, among a race who spoke a strange language, followed other customs, and abominated their religion. Under these circumstances, their homesickness must indeed have been bitter; but we have reason to believe that they were treated with tender care by the people here. We are glad to learn from the records that they were furnished with medical attendance, and articles necessary for their bodily comfort.

Another struggle was now impending, severer than any the Colonists had been engaged in. Almost immediately after the French and Indian War, the odious Stamp Act was passed, which did much to hasten public opinion toward the Revolution.

I hold in my hand a stamp issued under the authority of this Act. On a public occasion, many years ago, Mr. Everett said, in speaking of a similar one, that "this bit of dingy blue paper, stamped with the two-and-sixpence ster-

ling, created the United States of America, and cost Great Britain the brightest jewel in her crown."

The Stamp Act was followed by the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the Boston Port Bill, — all too familiar to be particularized. These acts excited throughout the land a deep feeling for the capital of New England. The eyes of all the colonies were now turned toward Boston, and she received the hearty sympathy of the whole country. The sentiments of the people of this town are shown in the following letter * from the Town Clerk : —

“GROTON, June 28th, 1774.

“GENTLEMEN, — The inhabitants of the Town of Groton, in general, are deeply affected with a sense of our public calamities, and more especially the distresses of our brethren in the Capital of the Province, as we esteem the act of blocking up the harbor of Boston replete with injustice and cruelty, and evidently designed to compel the inhabitants thereof to submission of taxes imposed upon them without their consent, and threatens the total destruction of the liberties of all British America. We ardently desire a happy union with Great Britain and the Colonies, and shall gladly adopt every measure consistent with the dignity and safety of British subjects for that purpose.

“In full confidence that the inhabitants of the Town of Boston will, in general, exhibit examples of patience, fortitude and perseverance, while they are called to endure this oppression for the preservation of the liberties of their country, and in token of our willingness to afford all suitable relief to them in our power, a number of the inhabitants of this Town have subscribed, and this day sent forty bushels of grain, part rye and part Indian corn, to be delivered to the Overseers of the Poor of said Town of Boston, not doubting but the same will be suitably applied for that purpose; and we earnestly desire you will use your utmost endeavor to prevent and avoid all mobs, riots, and tumults, and the insulting of private persons and property. And while the farmers are cheerfully resigning part of their substance for your relief, we trust the merchants will not oppress them by raising upon the goods which they have now on hand and heretofore purchased. And may God prosper every undertaking which tends to the salvation of the people.

* Massachusetts Historical Collections, Fourth Series, iv. 7, 8.

“We are, gentlemen, your friends and fellow-countrymen. In the name and by order of the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Groton.

“OLIVER PRESCOTT, *Clerk.*

“TO THE OVERSEERS OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON.”

The reply * was as follows: —

“BOSTON, July 5th, 1774.

“SIR, — Your obliging letter directed to the Overseers of the Poor of this Town, together with a generous present from a number of the inhabitants of the Town of Groton, for the relief of such inhabitants of this Town as may be sufferers by the Port Bill, is come to hand. In behalf of the Committee of this Town, appointed for the reception of such kind donations, I am now to return to you and the rest of our benefactors the most sincere thanks. The gentlemen may be assured their donations will be applied to the purpose they intend. We are much obliged to you for the wise cautions given in your letter; and we shall use our best endeavors that the inhabitants of this Town may endure their sufferings with dignity, that the glorious cause for which they suffer may not be reproached. We trust that the non-consumption agreement, which we hear is making progress in the country, will put it out of the power of any of the merchants to take unreasonable advantage of raising the prices of their goods. You will, however, remember that many heavy articles, such as nails, &c., will be attended with considerable charge in transporting them from Salem. As the bearer is in haste, I must conclude, with great regard for your Committee of Correspondence and the inhabitants of the Town of Groton.

“Sir, your friend and fellow-countryman,

“Signed by order of the Overseers of the Poor,

“SAM. PARTRIDGE.

“TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF GROTON,
IN MASSACHUSETTS.”

The times that tried men’s souls were now rapidly approaching; and the rights of the Colonies were the uppermost subject in the minds of most people. Groton sympathized warmly with this feeling, and prepared to do her part in the struggle. A considerable number of her inhabitants had

* Massachusetts Historical Collections, Fourth Series, IV. 9, 10.

received their military schooling in the French war, as their fathers before them had received theirs in the Indian war. Such persons did not now enter upon camp life as inexperienced or undisciplined soldiers. The town had men willing to serve and able to command. Within a quarter of a mile of this very spot the man was born, who commanded the American forces on Bunker Hill; and, as long as the story of that battle is told, the name of Prescott will be familiar.*

Before the beginning of actual hostilities, two companies of minute-men had been organized in this place; and, at the desire of the officers, the Reverend Samuel Webster, of Temple, N. H., preached a sermon, February 21, 1775, before them, which was afterward printed. It is there stated that a large majority of the town had engaged to hold themselves, agreeably to the plan of the Provincial Council, in prompt readiness to act in the service of their country. The sermon is singularly meagre in particulars which would interest us at this time, and is made up largely of theological opinion, perhaps as valuable now as then, though not so highly prized.

The Reverend Samuel Dana was the minister of the town at this period, and, unfortunately for him, he was too much in sympathy with the Crown in the great struggle now going on for human rights. Mr. Dana may not have been a Tory; but he did not espouse the cause of the Revolution. The state of public feeling was such that everybody was distrusted who was not on the side of political liberty. The people said, "He who is not for us is against us;" and the confidence of his flock was converted into distrust. It was easy to see that his influence was gone; and almost every minister in New England who held similar opinions shared the same fate. It was important that the public teacher and preacher should be in sympathy with the popular mind on the prominent political questions. This was a period of great events; and no man could stand against their crushing force. It was evident

* On the night of May 21, 1775, the countersign at the camp in Cambridge was "Pepperell," and the parole, "Groton." This was undoubtedly in compliment to Colonel Prescott.

that his usefulness was ended; and the relations between him and his parish were severed without the intervention of a regular ecclesiastical council.

Mr. Dana was a conscientious man; and it was his misfortune rather than his fault, that he was not more happily situated in regard to his people. It is but justice to his memory to say that, after Burgoyne's surrender, in the year 1777, Mr. Dana felt that the colonial cause was the winning one; while before this event he thought that the want of success on the part of the Colonists would result in their greater misery. He then became satisfied that the power of the country was sufficient to sustain the Declaration of Independence; and he was ever after the uniform supporter of all measures looking to its acknowledgment by the enemy. It is a little remarkable that Mr. Dana, who had such a Tory bias that he was obliged to leave the ministry in Groton, should have been a candidate in 1782 for the convention to form a constitution for New Hampshire, "as a sovereign and independent body politic."

After his dismissal from the parish, he officiated during perhaps a year and a half, in 1780 and 1781, as the minister of a Presbyterian society, which had a short existence in this town. This was owing chiefly to some of his old parishioners, who were dissatisfied with Dr. Chaplin, his successor. While living here, Mr. Dana was appointed executor of the will of John Bulkley, Esq., an attorney-at-law in this town. This position brought him in contact with a library, which he used in studying law, though, at this time, with no professional eye to business. In the year 1779, Thomas Coleman, who succeeded Mr. Bulkley as a lawyer, had his residence and office in Mr. Dana's house; and this circumstance helped him in gaining his new profession. He was admitted to the bar in 1781, and began practice at Amherst, N. H. He soon attained high rank in his new calling, and received many marks of kindness and confidence from his neighbors and fellow-citizens. He was offered the appointment to a judgeship of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas; but he declined it. He afterward accepted the office of Judge of Pro-

bate, which he kept only for a short time. His success as an advocate before a jury was marked; and this was due in part to his fluency of speech and clearness of expression, resulting from his pulpit experience.

He died, April 2, 1798, at Amherst, and was buried with masonic honors, when the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, of Groton, delivered a funeral eulogy, which is in print. His name is perpetuated in this town by the Dana School.

During several days before the Battle of Lexington, a hostile incursion by the English soldiers stationed in Boston was expected by the patriots. Its aim was the destruction of stores collected for the use of the provincial cause; and, on this account, every movement of the British troops was closely watched. At this time, the Committees of Safety and of Supplies voted that some of the stores should be kept at Groton; and, if their plan had been fully carried out, it is among the possibilities of the war that another battle might have been fought in Middlesex county, and Groton have been the scene of the action. But open hostilities began so soon afterward, that no time was given to make the removal of the stores. It was ordered by these committees, April 17, that the four six-pounders be transported from Concord to Groton, and put under the care of Colonel Prescott. On the next day, it was voted that all the ammunition should be deposited in nine different towns of the province, of which Groton was one, and that one-half of the musket cartridges be removed from Stow to Groton. It was also voted that two medicinal chests should be kept at different places in the town, and that eleven hundred tents be deposited in equal quantities in Groton and six other towns.*

In the summer of 1777, the Council of the State recommended to the Board of War that the magazine † in this town should be enlarged sufficiently to hold five hundred barrels of powder. This recommendation was carried out within a few days; and a corporal and four privates were detailed to

* Journals of the Committee of Safety and of the Committee of Supplies of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, 1774-1775, pages 516-518.

† Massachusetts Archives, CLXXIII. 274, 290, 549.

guard it. A caution was given "that no person be inlisted into said Guard that is not known to be attached to the American Cause." Later in the autumn, the detail was increased to a sergeant and nine privates.

Two years afterward, some glass was wanted for this very building, and for the school-house, as the windows were much broken. The selectmen of the town could obtain the glass only through the Board of War; and to this end they petitioned the Board for leave to buy it.* The request was duly granted; and I mention this trivial fact to show one of the little privations common in those days.

It is said in the note-book of the Reverend Dr. Jeremy Belknap, of Boston, that a negro belonging to this town shot Major Pitcairn through the head, while he was rallying the dispersed British troops, at the Battle of Bunker Hill.† It is known that Pitcairn was killed by a negro, but this is, perhaps, the first time that he has ever been connected on good authority with Groton.

The record of this town during the Revolution was a highly honorable one. Her soldiers achieved distinction in the field, and many of them in after life filled positions of trust and responsibility.

In the year 1776, an Act was passed removing the November term of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and Court of Common Pleas, from Charlestown to Groton. It may be conjectured that the change was owing to the disturbances of the war. Two years later, by another Act, this November term was transferred to Cambridge, to take the place of the May term, which in turn was brought to Groton, where it remained till 1787. It is very likely that the sessions of the Court were held in this very building. The Court was sitting in this town during the famous dark day of May, 1780.

Joseph Dennie, the poet, was rusticated from college in his senior year, and placed under the care of Dr. Chaplin, the minister of this town. Dennie used to say that he was sent

* Massachusetts Archives, CLXXV. 647.

† Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1875-76, page 93.

away from Cambridge to let his class catch up with him in their studies. After he had been here a short time, he writes to a classmate, under date of Feb. 24, 1790, giving his impressions of the place. He says: "A better, more royal, social club of Lads cannot be found in America, college excepted, than at Groton."

During a part of the first half of the present century, Groton had one characteristic feature that it no longer possesses. It was a radiating centre for different lines of stage-coaches, until this mode of travel was superseded by the swifter one of the railway. A whole generation has passed away since the old coaches were wont to be seen in these streets. They were drawn usually by four horses, and in bad going by six. Here a change of coaches, horses, and drivers was made.

The stage-driver of former times belonged to a class of men that have entirely disappeared from this community. His position was one of considerable responsibility. This important personage was well known along his route, and his opinions were always quoted with respect. I can easily recall, as many of you can, the familiar face of Mr. Corey, who drove the accommodation stage to Boston for so many years. He was a careful and skilful driver, and a man of most obliging disposition. He would go out of his way to bear a message or leave a newspaper; but his specialty was to look after women and children committed to his charge. I recall, too, with pleasure, Horace George, another driver, popular with all the boys, because in sleighing-time he would let us ride on the rack behind, and would even slacken the speed of his horses so as to allow us to catch hold of the straps.

In the year 1802, it is advertised that the Groton stage would set off from I. & S. Wheelock's, No. 37 Marlboro' (now a part of Washington) Street, Boston, every Wednesday at 4 o'clock in the morning, and arrive at Groton at 3 o'clock in the afternoon; and that it would leave Groton every Monday at 4 o'clock in the morning, and arrive in Boston at 6 o'clock in the afternoon. It seems from this that

it took three hours longer to make the trip down to Boston than up to Groton. In the succeeding year, a semi-weekly line is mentioned, and Dearborn Emerson was the driver. About this time he opened the tavern, at the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, long since given up as an inn, and subsequently burned. There were then two other taverns in the place, — the one kept by Mr. Hall, and continued as a tavern till this time; the other kept by Jephthah Richardson, on the present site of the Baptist church. About the year 1807, there was a tri-weekly line of stages to Boston, and as early as 1820 a daily line, which connected with others extending into New Hampshire and Vermont. Soon after this there were at times two lines to Boston, running in opposition to each other, — one known as the Union and Accommodation Line, and the other as the Telegraph and Despatch. Besides these, there was the accommodation stage-coach that went three times a week, and took passengers at a dollar each.

In the year 1830, George Flint had a line to Nashua, and John Holt had one to Fitchburg. They advertise "that no pains shall be spared to accommodate those who shall favor them with their custom, and all business intrusted to their care will be faithfully attended to."

There was also at this time a coach running to Lowell, and another to Worcester.

Some of you will remember the scenes of life and activity that were to be witnessed in the village on the arrival and departure of the stages. Some of you will remember, too, the loud snap of the whip which gave increased speed to the horses, as they dashed up in approved style to the stopping-place, where the loungers were collected to see the travellers and listen to the gossip which fell from their lips. There were no telegraphs then, and but few railroads in the country. The papers did not gather the news so eagerly nor spread it abroad so promptly as they do now, and items of intelligence were carried largely by word of mouth. But those days have long since passed. There are persons in this audience that have reached years of maturity, who have no recollection

of them ; but such is the rapid flight of time that, to some of us, they seem very near.

Groton was situated on one of the main thoroughfares leading from Boston to the northern country, comprising an important part of New Hampshire and Vermont, and extending into Canada. It was traversed by a great number of wagons, drawn by four or six horses, carrying to the city the various products of the country, such as grain, pork, butter, cheese, eggs, venison, hides ; and returning with goods found in the city, such as molasses, sugar, New-England rum, coffee, tea, nails, iron, cloths, and the innumerable articles found in the country stores, to be distributed among the towns above here. In some seasons, it was no uncommon sight to see in one day thirty such wagons.

We are now in our history passing through a period of centennial anniversaries, and we shall do well to study carefully their lesson. They are appearing unto us at different times and in different places. Their proper observance will kindle anew the patriotic fires of the Revolution, and bring out all over the land a common devotion to the Republic.

Time rolls on rapidly, and a century is soon completed. There are many in this audience who will see those that will be living a hundred years hence. To look ahead, a century appears to be a long period ; but, to look back to the extent of one's memory, it seems a short one. The years fly on wings, and change is a law of Nature. I can recall now but two families in the village, that are living in the same houses which they occupied in my boyhood ; and those two are Mr. Dix's and Mr. Blanchard's. A familiar sight at that time was the venerable form of Mr. Butler, whose character was well shown in his benignant face. His accurate "History" will be an abiding monument to his memory, and his name will be cherished as long as the town has a political existence. At that time the Common was the playground of the boys, — it had not then been fenced in, and there was but a single row of elms along the main street. Of the boys that played there, many are dead, others have left the town, and only a few remain. And the same can be said of the school-girls.

The lines are fallen unto us in pleasant places, and we all have much to be thankful for. What a contrast between our lot and that of our fathers! They had to struggle with many hardships. Their life was one of stern, unremitting toil, surrounded by cares and anxieties. They had to subdue the wilderness, while exposed to the assaults of a lurking savage foe. We, on the other hand, now enjoy much of the material results of their labor. We have but to cast our eyes about us, and see the comfortable homes and fertile fields. They left us the means of religious instruction, a system of public schools, and an attachment for the government which they labored so hard in founding. All these they placed in our keeping, and it rests with us to preserve them intact for the generations to come. The duty with us now is to see that the Republic shall receive no harm; to see that no moral decay—the sure precursor of physical decay—shall sap the structure which they reared. Our aim should be to leave to our children an example as noble as the one that was left to us.

APPENDIX.

[The Massachusetts Archives, frequently referred to, are in manuscript, and may be seen at the State House.]

I. — PAGE 16.

The Humble Request of Joseph Parker to the Honoured Governo^r the Honourd magistrates & deputyes, Humbly Requests in behalfe of the towne of Grawton that the letter GR may bee Recorded as the brand mark belonging to the towne I being chosen Counstable this year make bolde to present this, to the Honoured Court it being but my duty, in the townes behalfe thus Hopeing the Honored Court will grant my request I rest yor Humble servant

JOSEPH PARKER

BOSTON: 31th may: 1666

In answer to this motion the Deputies approve of y^o letter GR to be y^o brand marke of groaten

WILLIAM TORREY Cleric

Ye Hono^{red} magists consenting hereto

Consented by the magists

EDW: RAWSON Secret^r

[Massachusetts Archives, I. 21.]

2. — PAGE 17.

To the Constable of Groaten

These. Require yoⁿ in his Maj^{ties} name. to sumone & require John Page & such othe^r of y^o toune y^t went up to Inquire for y^oir catle. at Pemicook presently on the death of the Englishman murdered by y^o Indians there lately in a drunken fitt. as is sayd & others y^t yoⁿ know to make their Appearances before the Generall [Court] now sitting in Boston on 27th Instan^t. at eight of y^o clocke in the morning to give in their evidences in y^o Case relating to y^o sd murthe^r & y^o occasion thereof by selling strong liquo^{rs} & by

whom as they know or have heard making yo^r return of this warrant to the Secretary at or before y^t time hereof yoⁿ are not to faile dated in Boston the 15th of Octobe^r 1668.

EDW RAWSON Secre^t

By the Cour^t

[Endorsed]

These three men namly John Page Thomas an Robard Tarball Juni^r & Joseph Blood are Summanced Parish to apear^e at the Generall Court according to the premises: by mee

MATTHIAS FARNSWORTH

Constable of Grawton.

To the Constable Grawten

[Massachusetts Archives, xxx. 155.]

The words "an Robard Parish" appear in the original as given above. They were evidently put in after the document was written.

The Deposition of Danll Waldron being called to Speak what I know about the Death of Thomas Dikison who was killed by an Indian as they say: my selfe with many others was sent up by my father to see the corps and enquire into his death when we came there we found the man dead and an Indian lying dead by him and examining the Indians how he came by his death they said the Indian that lay dead by him killed him with his knife: and enquiring further why he killed him the Indians told us they asked him and he gave them no answer but bid them shoott him: and further enquiring whether the Indian were Drunk they answered that he was not Drunk and after this we saw him buried presently and we returned home the next Day

This was taken upon oath: this 20: {of y^e: 8:} mo 1668 before us

SIMON WILLARD

W^m HATHORNE

[Massachusetts Archives, xxx. 157.]

Wee whose names are hereunto subscribed Doe testifye that in or aboute y^e Month of June last past goeing to Pennycooke to enquire after Cattle yt were lost, rideing to y^e ffort at the sayd Pennycooke, meeting wth some of the Indians belonging thereto told us, y^t an Englishman was Killed by an Indian, and that all our Eng-

lishmans Laws they had Killed the Indian, wee farther enquireing of them how and whether the Indians were drunke when the Englishman was Killed and they answered all Indians were then drunk or else they had noe Kild Englishman; And farther wee Evidence Tohaunto a Sagamore being afrayd that wee had brought Liquors to sell desired us if wee had any, that wee would power it on the ground for it would make y^e Indians all one Divill, And farther wee meeting wth Thomas Payne, who told us he was Cap^t Waldern's serv^t, asking him whether the Indians were drunke when the Englishman was Killed, and he answered not drunk, and after farther discours^e wth y^e s^d Payn^e he sayd that y^e prson that was Killed was Peter Coffins man and farther sayd That if the Killing of the Man did not prevent it his the sayd Payn^e's Master Cap^t Waldern^e and Peter Coffin did intend to send Carpenters to build ther^e and also to have ground broake upp to be improved, and wee further affirme that wee saw a Rundlett which would hold at least six Gallons in the Trucking House near the sayd floort; after wch wee meeteing wh the Indians then ther^e and telling them y^t Thomas Payn^e told us that they were not drunk when The Englishman was Killed the Indians then say^d y^t Payn^e much Lyed, for wee had Divers Quarts of Liquors the same day that the sayd Englishman was Killed upon and one of the Indians Co^mmanded his Squagh to wash a Bladder, wherein the Indian sayd there was a Quart of Liquors and wee doe adiudge it to be as much; or using words to the same effect

Octobr 27th 1668

Sworne in Court, 27, octobe^r 1668 :

EDW : RAWSON Se^cret^r

[Massachusetts Archives, xxx. 161.]

JOHN PAGE

ROBB PARRIS

THOMAS TARBALL

JOSEPH BLOUD

—◆—
3. — PAGE 20.

Honerd Gentlemen the Gouvr & Councell

This afternoon, we had accordinge to your order, discourse with Capt Hincksman, in reference to his actings in his waye as to the comisions he recd from you, he is to take: So men frome oure Garisons, that is all we haue or mor, & we: stand in need of more but we dare not be so bold, our corne, that littill we haue, is time it weare gathered, but if our scouts be taken off heer is littill be

gathered, & many will be hardly kept with vs, but will rune away frome all our townes, you hapily may thinke we are afrayd, we will not bost therabout, but we dare saye, our liues are not dear unto vs, in any way that God shall call vs to, our thoughts are that it is not advisable to march vp to penicooke, wher ther are many Indians at the p^rsent, yet many abroad about all our towns as apears dayly, but our p^rsent thoughts are, that it might be for p^rsent saffie for the country, that a Garison wear settled ouer Merrimake Riuer about donstable, that ther maye be enttercourse betweene our towns & that Garison, we haue apoyntted Capt Pakr & left Hinckesmen who will relatte things to giue you reall light, much further then is meet now to do or then time will pmitt, we are not willinge to truble you any further, but rest your humble servants

GROATON this 25th 7: 75.

SIMON WILLARD,
SALOM ADAMES
JAMES PARKER:
JAMES KIDDER

[Massachusetts Archives, LXVII. 265.]

—◆—
4. — PAGE 24.

To the Honord Council convened at Boston Aug^o. 17th 1676.

The humble Petition of John Morse

Sheweth. That yo^r petition^r being an Inhabitant of Groton; hath together (with many others) been deprived of his Estate by the calamity of the warr; and himselfe carried away captive by the Enemy; and about five pounds in mony laide down by M^r John Hubbard of Boston for his ransome, and understanding that there hath been some Stock raised by a contribution towards the ransoming of the captives. Yo^r petition^r doth humbly pray that hee may bee considered in the distribution of the s^d Stock, and that M^r Hubbard may be reimbursed thereout; hee having not of his own wherewith to pay him. and yo^r petition^r shall for ever thankfully acknowledge yo^r Hono^{rs} ffavo^r therein and for ever prayer.

This petition is Granted 17 August 1676:

per Consiliū E R S.

[Massachusetts Archives, LXIX. 48.]

5. — PAGE 24.

The following account of the burning of the town is by the Reverend William Hubbard, and is found in his "Narrative," printed in 1677. It is the fullest contemporaneous account printed, and very likely many of the facts were given him by the Reverend Mr. Willard.

March 2. They assaulted *Groton*: the next day over night Major *Willard* with seventy Horse came into the Town; forty Foot also came up to their relief from *Watertown*, but the Indians were all fled, having first burned all the Houses in the Town, save four that were Garisoned, the Meeting-house being the second house they fired, Soon after Capt. *Sill* was sent with a small Party of Dragoons of 8 Files to fetch off the Inhabitants of *Groton*, and what was left from the spoyle of the enemy, having under his conduct about sixty Carts, being in depth from front to reer above two mile: when a party of Indians lying in ambush, at a place of eminent advantage, fired upon the front and mortally wounded two of the vaunt Carriers, who dyed both the next night, and might (had God permitted) have done eminent damage to the whole Body, it being a full hour before the whole Body could be drawne up, which was done with care and Courage: but the Indians after a few more shot made. without doing harm, retired, and made no further assault upon them, being the same Party of *Indians* which the day before had burned some part of *Chelmsford*. Soon after this Village was deserted and destroyed by the enemy: yet was it a special providence, that though the Carts were guarded with so slender a Convoy, yet there was not any considerable loss sustained.

The Surprizall of *Groton* was after this manner.

On *March, 2.* The Indians came in the night and rifled eight or nine houses and carried away some cattle, and alarmed the Town.

On *March, 9.* About ten in the morning a parcel of *Indians* (having two dayes lurked in the town, and taken possession of three out-houses and feasted themselves with corn, divers swine and poultry which they there seized) laid an ambush for two Carts, which went from their garison to fetch in some hay, attended with four men, two of which espying the enemy, made a difficult escape, the other two were set upon, and one of them slain, stript naked, his body mangled, and dragged into the high-way, and laid on his back in a most shamefull manner: the other taken Captive; and fater sentenced to death, but the enemy not concurring in the man-

ner of it, execution was deferred, and he by the providence of God escaped by a bold attempt the night before he was designed to slaughter, and fled to the Garison at *Lancaster*, the cattle in both towns wounded, and five of them slain outright.

March, 13. Was the day when the enemy came in a full body, by there own account 400. and thought by the Inhabitants to be not many fewer. The town was at this time (having been put into a fright by the sad Catastrophe of *Lancaster* the next bordering town) gathered into five Garisons, four of which were so near together, as to be able to command from one to the other, between which were the cattle belonging to those Families driven into pastures, which afterward proved their preservation; the other was near a mile distant from the rest.

This morning the *Indians* (having in the night placed themselves in several parts of the town) made their Onset; which began near the four Garisons; for a body of them having placed themselves in Ambuscado, behind a hill, near one of the Garisons, two of them made discovery of themselves, as if they had stood upon discovery. At this time divers of the people, nothing suspecting any such matter, (for the day before, many had been upon discovery many miles, and found no signs of an Enemy being so near) were attending their occasions, some foddering their cattle, some milking their Cows, of whom the Enemy might easily have made a seizure, but God prevented; they having another design in hand, as soon after appeared: These two Indians were at length espyed, and the Alarm given; whereupon the most of the men in the next Garison, and some also of the second (which was about eight or nine pole distant) drew out and went to surprize these two *Indians*, who kept their station till our men reached the brow of the hill, then arose the ambush and discharged a volley upon them, which caused a disorderly retreat, or rather a rout, in which one was slain, and three others wounded: mean while another ambush had risen, and come upon the back side of the Garison so deserted of men, and pulled down the Palizadoes: The Souldiery in this rout, retreated not to their own, but passed by to the next Garison, the women and children mean while exposed to hazard, but by the goodness of God made a safe escape to the other fortified house without any harm, leaving their substance to the enemy, who made a prey of it, and spent the residue of the day in removing the corn and household-stuff (in which loss five Families were impoverished) and firing upon the other Garison: here also they took some Cattle. No sooner was the signal given by the first volley of shot,

but immediately in several parts of the town at once, did the smoakes arise, they firing the houses.

In the afternoon they used a stratagem not unlike the other, to have surprized the single Garrison, but God prevented. An old *Indian* if an *Indian* passed along the street with a black sheep on his back, with a slow pace, as one decrepit: They made several shot at him, but missed him, at which several issued out to have taken him alive, but the Watchman seasonably espying an ambush behind the house, gave the signal, whereby they were prevented.

The night following the enemy lodged in the town, some of them in the Garrison they had surprized, but the Body of them in an adjacent valley, where they made themselves merry after their savage manner. The next morning they gave two or three Volleys at Capt. *Parkers* Garrison, & so marched off, fearing as was thought that supply might be nigh at hand. This assault of theirs was managed with their wonted subtlety, and barberous cruelty: for they stript the body of him whom they had slain in the first onset, and then cutting off his head, fixed it upon a pole looking towards his own land. The corpse of the man slain the week before, they dug up out of his grave, they cut off his head and one leg, and set them upon poles, and stript off his winding sheet. A Infant which they found dead in the house first surprized, they cut in pieces, which afterward they cast to the swine. There were about forty dwelling houses burnt at that time, besides other buildings. This desolation was followed with the breaking up of the town, and scattering of the Inhabitants, and removal of the *Candlestick*, after it had been there seated about twelve years.

Concerning the surprizing of *Groton*, *March* 13. There was not any thing much more material, then what is already mentioned, save only the insolency of *John Monaco* or *one eyed John*, the chief Captain of the Indians in that design: who having by a sudden surprizal early in the morning seized upon a Garrison house in one end of the Town, continued in it, plundering what was there ready at hand, all that day; and at night did very familiarly in appearance, call out to Capt. *Parker* that was lodged in another Garrison house, and entertained a great deal of Discourse with him, whom he called his *old Neighbour*: dilating upon the cause of the War, and putting an end to it by a friendly peace: yet oft mixing bitter Sarcasmes, with several blasphemous scoffs and taunts at their praying and worshipping God in the meeting house, which he deridingly said he had burned. Among other things which he boastingly uttered that night: he said he burnt *Medfield* (though it be not known whither he was there personally present or no)

Lancaster, and that now he would burn that Town of *Groton*, and the next time he would burn *Chelmsford, Concord, Watertown, Cambridge, Charlstown, Roxbury, Boston*, adding at last in their Dialect, *What Me will, Me do*: not much unlike the proud *Assyrian* (if his power had been equal to his pride) sometime threatned against *Jerusalem*, but was by the remarkable providence of God, so confounded within a few months after, that he was bereft of his four hundred and fourscore (of which he now boasted) and only with a few more Bragadozio's like himself, *Sagamore Sam, old Jethro*, and the *Sagamore of Quobaog* were taken by the English, and was seen (not long before the writing of this) marching towards the Gallows (through *Boston Streets*, which he threatened to burn at his pleasure) with an Halter about his neck, with which he was hanged at the Towns end, *September 26.* in this present year 1676. *So let thine Enemies perish O Lord*, and such contempt be poured on all them that open their mouthes to blaspheme thy holy Name.

Things looked with a pritty sad face about those parts at this time; yet *though the Righteous fall seven times, let not their Enemies rejoyce, for the Righteous shall rise again, but their wicked Enemies shall fall into mischief, and rise no more.* It was ebbing water with *New-England* at this time, and a while after; but God shall turn the stream before it be long, and bring down their Enemies to lick the dust before them.

After this *April 17.* Captain *Sill*, being appointed to keep *Garrison* at *Groton*, some Indians coming to hunt for Swine, three Indians drew near the *Garrison* house, supposing it to have been deserted, were two of them slain by one single shot made by the Captains own hands, and the third by another shot made from the *Garrison*. [Pages 72-76.]

The following paragraph is taken from "A Table" in *Hubbard's "Narrative,"* and is found on the fourth page after page 132.

Groton, surprized *March 2.* as is related *pag. 60. & 61.* [72-76?] the place consisting of about 60. families, was soon after deserted, yet are there 14. or 15. houses left standing to this day, though not inhabited for the present. *pag. 73.*

—◆—

6. — PAGE 26.

The humble petition and request of the greatest number of the former inhabitants of y^e Towne of *Groton*

Humbly sheweth to the Honored Generall Court setting in Boston : as followeth viz :

We who have been great Sufferers, by y^e hand of God, in the late wars by our heathenish enemyes, as is well knowne to all : & by which we have bin enforced, to flye before enemyes ; to our great & greivous losse, & trouble. By y^e good hand of God to us, have had so much reprieve, & respitt, as we have many of us, had y^e liberty & oppertunity, to returne to the places, though not y^e houses of our former abode. And now being under & exercised with many and great difficultyes ; Apprehending it our duty, to addresse ourselves ; not onely to our heavenly father ; but earthly fathers also, in this time of need : do humbly begg our case may be seriously considered, & weighed, & that some direction, and releife may be afforded unto us.

Some of us y^e Inhabitants have ventured : our lives some while since to returne againe, and many others have followed us, whose welcome company is rejoycing unto us. Yett our poverty, & the nonresidence of others, doth occasion us great & unavoidable trouble. We have (through Gods goodnesse, & blessing our endeavours, & attempts) procured & obtained the ministry of y^e word among us ; & have bin at some considerable charge about it. And are willing (if God please) to keep, & maintaine, it amongst us. Butt there is some discouragements, upon sundrey accounts. We have had severall towne meetings to consult the good, & welfare of the towne & place & how things may be caried on, as to defraing publiq charges, And it hath bin, voated in our meetings (our visible estate being small) to lay it on y^e lands, y^e so an equality in some respect might be reached unto. This is by y^e most judged to be the present best yea y^e onely present possible way for us to proceed in. which we desire your honoured selves to putt y^e countenance of authority upon. As also That our late dredfull suffering ruines, and impoverishments may by your honoured selves be so fare minded & considered, that we may for the present (till we a little recover ourselves) be releised from Countrey charges. We would be rightly understood, as to our first request That the way by lands accomodations for the levying towne charges may be stated butt for y^e present few years, till God by his providence may alter our capacity & condition : Thus craving pdone for this our boldnesse That successe & a blessing may Attend you in all your affaires ; That God will accomplish his promises & built y^e wast places, sett up his house & ordinances whence they have been removed delight to build, & plant us againe & not to pull us

downe & pluck us up That we may yett see This our Jerusalem a
 quiett habitation Thus prayeth your humble & unworthy petition-
 ers :

Att A towne meeting at Groton
 May 20th 1679 Ther red & voated
 by the inhabitants :

JAMES PARKER
 Select man
 And clarke in y^e
 name of y^e rest.

[Massachusetts Archives, LXIX. 224.]

In answ^r to this Petⁿ It is. ordered by this Court y^t for 3 : yeares
 next comeing in all levyes made for y^e benefit of y^e s^d place & y^e
 maintenance of Gods ordinances there, those y^t have lands there &
 are not ressid^t upon y^e place shall pay rates for y^r Lands ther as
 those do y^t are ressid^t and y^t the Inhabitants there ressid^t be abated
 one single rate p^r ann. to y^e country for ye like times The mag-
 is^{ts} have past this their brethren the deputyes hereto consenting

EDW^d RAWSON Secre^t

29th May 1679.

The deputs Consent hereto provided that the cattle upon the
 place be lyable to pay rates also wth refer^{ence} to the consent of
 o^r Hon^{re}d magistrs hereto

WILLIAM TORREY Cleric.

30th May 1679 Consented to by the magis^{ts}

EDW^d RAWSON Secre^t.

[Massachusetts Archives, LXIX. 229.]

—◆—
 7.—PAGE 28.

Josiah Parker of Groton testifyes that he is very well acquainted
 wth y^e Indian now in prison named Jacob Nonantinooh & that he
 Can say of his certain knowledge y^t he hath seen him every month
 since y^e last Indian warr began, except it was when he y^e said
 Jacob was in y^e Countrey service under y^e Co^mand of Captⁿ Noah
 Wiswall in y^e years Eighty nine & Ninety : also if he be required
 he Can produce severall y^t Can testify y^e same Hee further saith
 that as far as it is possible to know an Indian he is a friend to the
 English & hath manifested the same both in word an Action &
 whereas severall of y^e Inhabitants of Groton have been out in y^e
 woods on hunting they have taken this said Jacob wth them who in
 y^e night hath showne his Care more than any of them in his watch-

fullness; expressing himselfe to them that it did Concerne him so to do, for if they were Surprised by y^e enemy Indians he should be worse dealt wth then the English; also many other Instances might be mentioned.

JOSIAH PARKER

GROTON Decmbr. 8th. 1691

The testimoneys of Josiah Parker aged. 36: years: and of Joseph Parker aged 40 years: Thomas Tarball aged. 25: years or thereabouts; testify concerning Jacob Indein now in prison; that the two winters last past y^e s^d Jacob has bin gineraly in our towne with his famely Except when he was out a hunting and then the s^d Joseph Parker or s^d Tarball were out with him or som other Inglesh men who have geeven sd Jacob a good coment as to his care and wachfulnes as to y^e enemy boath by night and day and by the best inquiry that we can make s^d Jacob has never bin out a hunting above once without som English Company with him & then he was not gon above a fortnight and that was about two years sence; the which if caled too am redy too testify upon oath pr me

JOSIAH PARKER

GROTON Decmbr. 8th. 1691

Concerning the man that has accused the Indeins in prison he is a man litell to be credeted for on the: 2th day of this Instent at Evening: Lef^t Boweres and: I, at Mr. Sumers'is at charlestowne discorsing him namly Abraham Miller about y^e s^d Indeans: and, teling him that he was mistaken for thes Indeans ware not at Candedy at that time when he charged them; s^d Miller sd Zoundes that if ever he saw them Indens again out of prison he would kill them: and being a litell cautioned to be sober minded he broke out with an oath that if he ware but out of ye countrey himselfe; he wished the Indeans would knock out y^e braines of every person in Newe England. This was spock before Mr. Sumers & his wife and severall outers; y^e s^d person being asked whether he was not in a passion some time after he Replied no he ware of y^e same mind still that if he was out of y^e countrey he did not care if all the Rest ware knocked their braines out—to which if caled to am redy too testify upon oath. Pr me

JOSIAH PARKER

[Massachusetts Archives, xxx. 323.]

8. — PAGE 29.

Jer. Sweyne writes from "Berwick att Salmon Falls Octob^r 15. 89"

that "it is supposed y^t small party of Indians may be in y^e chesnut cuntry beyond Groton."

Upon information there is but little work for a Coñissary at Groton the Representatives do agree & order that the Coñissary there; be discharged from said Employ^t:

Ordered by the Representatives That Capt^o Jaccob Moore wth his Company at Groton be forth wth drawne off and discharged desiring the Hon^{ed} the Gov^r & Councill Consent

Novemb^r; 6: 1689:

EBENEZER PROUT Clerk

Consent^d to by the Gov^r
& Councill

Is^t ADDINGTON Sec^{ry}

[Massachusetts Archives, xxxv. 56, 71, 73.]

Six soldiers were posted in this town, under Thomas Hinchman, Nov. 17, 1692. Two additional men were allowed, August, 1695, when there were ten soldiers in town, and four troopers to scout. There were eight men posted here for "y^e Deffence of y^e Frontiers," June 10, 1698.

[Massachusetts Archives, LXX. 184, 261, 380.]

—◆—

 9. — PAGE 29.

The following reference to the assault on the town in 1694 is found in the report, made October 26, by M. Champigny to the Minister Pontchartrain. The original document is in the Archives of the Marine and Colonies at Paris; and I am indebted to Mr. Francis Parkman, the distinguished historian, for the copy of it.

These Indians did not stop there; four parties of them have since been detached, who have been within half a day's journey of Boston [*z.e.*, at Groton], where they have killed or captured more than sixty persons, ravaged and pillaged every thing they found, which has thrown all the people into such consternation that they are leaving the open country to seek refuge in the towns.

A "Relation" of an expedition by Villieu also mentions the assault. A copy of the paper is found in the State Archives, in the volume marked, "Documents collected in France," IV. 251. The writer gives the date of the attack as July 30, which is three days later than is usually assigned. He says:—

On the 30, the Indians of the Penobscot, not having taken as many prisoners and as much booty as those of the Kennebec, because they had not found enough to employ themselves; at the solicitation of Villieu and Taxous, their chief, some fifty of them detached themselves to follow this last person, who was piqued at the little that had been done. They were joined by some of the bravest warriors of the Kennebec, to go on a war party above Boston to break heads by surprise (*casser des têtes a la surprise*), after dividing themselves into several squads of four or five each, which cannot fail of producing a good effect.

Having crossed Merrimack, on the 27th of July [1694] they fell upon Groton, about 40 miles from Boston. They were repulsed at Lakin's garrison house, but fell upon other houses, where the people were off their guard, and killed and carried away from the vicinity about forty persons. Toxus's two nephews were killed by his side, and he had a dozen bullets through his blanket, according to Charlevoix, who adds, that he carried the fort or garrison and then went to make spoil at the gates of Boston; in both which facts the French account is erroneous.

[Hutchinson's "History of Massachusetts," II. 82.]

—♦—
10.—PAGE 31.

The DEPOSITION of JOHN LONGLEY, Yeoman.

[No 4]

John Longley, of Groton, of about fifty-four Years of Age, testifies and saith, That he was taken Captive by the Indians at Groton, in July 1694, and lived in Captivity with them more than four Years; and the two last Years and an half at Penobscott, as Servant to Madokawando of said Penobscott; and he was always accounted as Chief, or one of the chief Sachems or Captains among the Indians there: And I have often seen the Indians sitting in Council, where he always sat as Chief; and

once in particular I observed a Present was made him of a considerable Number of Skins of considerable Value, as an Acknowledgment of his Superiority.

JOHN LONGLEY.

Middlesex ss. Groton, July 24th, 1736.

DEACON *John Longley* above named personally appearing made, Oath to the Truth of the above written Testimony.

Before me BENJAMIN PRESCOT, *Justice of Peace.*

[A Defence of the Title of the late John Leverett, Esq., &c., by Samuel Waldo, of Boston, 1736, page 27.]

II. — PAGE 33.

The Petition of Josiah Parker of Cambridge humbly sheweth

That whereas in the year 1693 [1694?] the Indian enemy made an assault upon the Town of Groton in which among others James Parker Jun^r Brother to yo^r humble Pet^r was killed with his Wife, several of his Children also were then carryed away Captive, one of which named Phinehas Parker something less then a year ago was (by a Master of a Vessell belonging to Ipswich) redeemed from the Indians at y^e Eastward; which said Master has been reimbursed by yo^r Pet^r w^{ch} is to the Value of about six pounds in Money.

The earnest request of yo^r humble Pet^r to yo^r Excellency & to this Hon^{ble} Court is that you would please to consider him & that allowance may be made him out of the publick Treasury for what he has disburst. Also he desires humbly that you would please something to consider the said Phinehas who is a poor Orphan now about twelve years old and is likewise lame of one of his Leggs occasioned by y^e cruelty of y^e Salvages and it is very questionable whether ever he will be cured, & has little or nothing left him of his Fathers estate for his support If therefore what has here been suggested by yo^r humble Pet^r may be accordingly considered & granted, it will greatly oblige him, as in duty Bound,

Ever to Pray &c

JOSIAH PARKER

[Massachusetts Archives, LXX. 401.]

In answer to this petition, dated May 31, 1699, it was voted, three days afterward, that six pounds of money be allowed out of the public treasury.

12. — PAGE 34.

To The Honored & great Assembly now setting in Boston The humble petition and Request of Stephen Holden of Groton

Honored S^{rs} It having pleased the Almighty God to order it that myselfe & my two biggest sons thô small were taken captives by the Indian enemyes from our towne of Groton and being with the Esterne enemy & my 2 sons about one year & ten moneth when thô it was my portion to escape with my life thro Gods mercy beyond what I did expect or look for & I think fared better than some other English yett great hardship and difficultyes I underwent. but being very desirous with one of my sons that was there to gitt home If it might be fore the English vessells came I was necessitated to give my promise to my Indian Pilates whom I satisfied att Richmans Island by English that I borrowed of there three pound & twelve shillings If I might have y^e boldnesse I would humbly crave That It might be payd out of Publiq stock I should take it thankfully att your hands Thus with my thankfullnesse to God that both myselfe & both my children he hath graciously returned to our home againe commend your honours and concerments into y^e hands & wishing y^e Presence & benediction of y^e soveraine God I take Leave & subscribe myselfe your humble servant & suppliant

STEPHEN HOLDEN

GROTON May 27th 1699

It was voted, June 6, 1699, by the General Court, that the petitioner be allowed the sum he asked for.

Among the names of the captives received on board the "Province Gally," Jan. 17, 1698-9, at Casco Bay, were "John Houlding of Grotten" and "Tamasin Rouce of Grotten." It is recorded, a week later, that "Steven Houlding of Grotten" and "Steven Houlding Junr of ditto" are "yet in the Indian hands."

[Massachusetts Archives, LXX. 39S, 399, 400.]

—◆—

13. — PAGE 35.

On *Wednesday* night [October 25] an English man was kill'd in the Woods at *Groton* by the Indians which were afterwards

descried in the night by the Light of their Fires, by a Person Travailing from *Groton* to *Lancaster*, and judged they might be about Thirty in number; pursuit was made after them, but none could be found.

[“The Boston News-Letter,” October 30, 1704, No. 28.]

—◆—
14. — PAGE 35.

To his Excellency Joseph Dudley Esq Cap^t General and Govern^r in Cheif in and over her Majestyes Province of the Massachusetts Bay &c. and to the Ho^{ble} the Council and Representatives of s^d Province.

Wee the inhabitants of the Towne of Groton cannot but with all thankfulness acknowledge the great Care that his Ex^{cy} and Govern^{mt} hath taken for our Preservation and defense in these times of danger. Notwithstanding all which, wee have bin by our Enemy extreemly impoverished not being capable of making those improvements which are necessary for our subsistance, but our Outlands upon which wee have a Considerable dependance lye neglected; and many of us are reduced to the Last necessity; Our Stocks are like to Suffer much in the Winter; and are in great fears that wee have mett wth Considerable losses in them already from the Enemy and wee are now at Extream Charge in the Settling of our Minister; So that wee are greatly reduced and impoverished;

Wee would therefore humbly intreat that our Languishing Circumstances may be taken into your Consideration; and that our proportion of the Publique tax may this year be remitted to us; and wee hope that not only our present afflicted State but our future dutyfull deportment will be Such as may testife for us, and afford yo^r hon^{rs} Satisfaction in so notable an instance of Charity, and Compassion

JONAS PRESCOTT
JONATHAN LAWRENCE
JN^o. FARNESWORTH
SAM^l PARKER }
NATH. WOODS } Select
ROBT. ROBBINS } men

In behalf of the Towne of Groton;

[Massachusetts Archives, CXIII. 391.]

To his exalancy Joseph Dutly esquir captain genarall comander in in and ouer hur maiesties prouines of the masiacheusits bay in new England and to the honorable counsil and raprasantitifes in genarall court asambled at boston this Instant Desember 1704.

The humble patition of the Inhabitants of the town of groton in the county of midsax in the prouians aforesd humbly sheweth

1 That wharas by the all desposing hand of God who orders all things in infinit wisdom it is our portion to liue In such a part of the land which by reson of the enemy Is becom uary dangras as by wofull exsperiants we have falt both formarly and of late to our grat damidg & discoridgmant and spashaly this last yere hauing lost so many parsons som killed som captiuated and som ramoued and allso much corn & cattell and horses & hay wharby wee ar gratly Impouerrished and brought uary low & in a uary pore capacity to subsist any longer As the barers herof can inform your honors

2 And more then all this our paster mr hobard is & hath been for aboue a yere uncapable of desspansing the ordinances of God amongst vs & we haue aduised with the Raurant Elders of our nayboring churches and thay aduise to hyare another minister and to saporit mr hobard and to make our adras to your honours we haue but litel left to pay our deus with being so pore and few In numbr athar to town or cuntrey & we being a frantere town & lyable to dangor there being no safty in going out nor coming in but for a long time we haue got our brad with the parel of our liues & allso broght uery low by so grat a charg of bilding garisons & fortefycations by ordur of athorety & thar is saural of our Inhabitants ramoued out of town & others ar prouiding to remoue. axcept somthing be don for our Incoridgment for we are so few & so por that we canot pay two ministers nathar ar we wiling to liue without any we spend so much time in waching and warding that we can doe but litel els & truly we haue liued allmost 2 yers more like soulders then other wise & accept yours honors can find out som bater way for our safty and support we cannot uphold as a town ather by remitting our tax or tow allow pay for building the sauarall forts allowed and ordred by athority or alls to allow the one half of our own Inhabitants to be under pay or to grant liberty for our remufe Into our naiburing towns to tak cor for oursalfs all which if your honors shall so meet to grant you will hereby gratly incoridg your humble pateceners to conlect with the many troubles we ar ensadent unto

wharfore your humble pationars humbly prays your axcalancy

& this honared court to tak this mater into your seares consedration and grant releef accordingly and your pationars shall as in duty bound foreur pray

by order of the town of groton

JONAS PRESCOTT
JAMES NUTTING
JOSEPH LAKEN
SAMUEL PARKER

Jan^{ry} 2^d 1704 Read.

In the House of Representatives.

Jan^{ry} 3: 1704

In Answer to the Petition on the other side

Resolved That there be allowed, and Paid out of the publick Treasury, the sum of Twenty Pounds, to the Town of Groton to Encourage & Assist them in Procuring another Minister, to help them under the present Disability of their Pastour M^r. Hubbard, & Ten Pounds more be allowed & Paid out of the publick Treasury, to Jonathan Tyng Esq. & M^r. Nathan^l Hill, to be by them proportionably distributed to such of the s^d Town, as in the Judgment have been greatest sufferers, in the late outrages made upon them by the Enemy Sent up for concurrence.

JAM^s CONVERSE Speaker

In Council.

Read and concurr'd.

IS^a ADDINGTON Secry

4th January. 1704.

[Massachusetts Archives, LXXI. 107, 108.]



15. — PAGE 40.

To his Excellency Joseph Dudley Esq^r Cap^t General and Governo^r in Chief in & over her Maj^{ties} Provinces of the Massachusetts-Bay &^{ra} in New England To the Hon^{ble} her Maj^{ties} Council in s^d Province and To the Hon^{ble} the House of Representatives now convened in General Assembly within & for said Province

Octob^r 25th 1704

The Humble Petition of John Shepley of Groton Sheweth

That when Major Taylor was at Groton, having drawn off most of his men from the place and marched to Col. Tyngs yo^r Petitioner and Thirteen men more being some reaping and y^e rest Warding in a field at Groton afores^d the Indians to the number of about twenty came upon them when yo^r Petitioner and the rest

betook themselves to their Arms, and three others being along with yo^r Petitioner, the Indian ran round the field & met them & the s^d Indians made several shott at the English, but amongst the rest one lusty stout Indian with a holland shirt on ran about 8 or 10 Rodd side by side with yo^r Petitioner & the other 3 men in his Company, about 10 Rodd to the right hand of them when he fired upon us, and as soon as he had fired yo^r Petitioner fired being loaded with a slugg & another of the Company at the same time fired a Bullet at him whereupon the s^d Indian fell down and cryd out; Those now 3 of our first Company kill'd or carryed away, Afterwards ye s^d Indian was found dead & a slugg & Bullet in his Body his Scalp being sent up to his Excellency by Major Taylor.

Yo^r Petitioner therefore humbly prays yo^r Excellency & Hon^{rs} to take the premises into yo^r Considerations and he may be allowed such Encouragem^t for his service herein as the Law allows or as to yo^r Excellency & Hono^{rs} in yo^r Wisdoms shall seem meet.

and yo^r Petitioner shall pray &^{ca}

JOHN SHEPLEY.

Octob^r 26th 1704.

In Council,

Read and sent down.

On the back of the petition is written : —

In the House of Representatives

Octo^r 27 : 1704 Read and

Resolved That the sum of four Pounds be allowed and Paid out of the publick Treasury to the Petition^r and the like Sum of four Pounds to Samuel Butterfield, who this House is Inform^d did assist in the killing of the Indian mentioned in the Petition, and that no other or further sum be allowed for the killing of the s^d Indian

JAM^s CONVERSE Speaker

Sent up for Concurrence
in Council.

Die pdict.

Read and Concurr'd

Is^t ADDINGTON Sec^{ry}.

[Endorsed] John Shepley's Petition Octo^r 1704.

[Massachusetts Archives, xxx. 496, 497.]

16. — PAGE 40.

"In a List of Frontier Garrisons Reviewed by Order of His Excellency the Governour, In Novemb^r 1711," the following statistics are given of Groton:—

No	Garrisons	Familys	Inhabit ^s	Souldiers	Souls
1	Serj ^t Gillson	3	6	1	25
2	Deacon Whittney	4	8	—	32
3	Lieu ^t Lawrance	1	1	—	2
4	Cap ^t Prescott	4	8	1	41
5	Samuel Parker	3	8	0	27
6	M ^r Bradstreet	1	1	3	10
7	M ^r Hubbards	3	12	0	32
8	M ^r Lakins	7	9	1	30
9	Ens ^g Shipple	6	7	2	30
10	M ^r Shaddock	5	6	2	26
11	Corp ^o Tarboll	4	6	2	23
12	M ^r Holdings	1	3	2	12
13	Ens ^g Farnsworth	3	4	1	18
14	M ^r Filbrick	7	8	0	40
15	M ^r Stones	2	3	0	12
16	Chamberlain	1	—	—	4
17	y ^e Cap ^t Mill	1	1	1	6
18	M ^r Farnsworth	2	2	1	8
		58	93	17	378

[Massachusetts Archives, LXXI. 874.]

17. — PAGE 41.

The following Groton men are borne on the rolls of Lieutenant Fairbanks's company, June 18, 1724:—

Phinias Parker, Serj ^t	Nov. 25 to Jan. 12	4	13	4
Jon ^a Shipley, Sent ^l	" 10 " "	4	11	5
Jo ^s Blood	" " June 13	15	10	
Ja ^s Shaduck	" " " "	15	10	
Samuel Srepter	" " " "	15	10	
W ^m Lawrance	" " " "	15	10	

Josiah Bauden	Jan. 13	June 13	10	18	6
Jacob Ames	Nov. 25	„ „	14	8	6
Isaac Woods	„ „	„ „	14	8	6
Jason Williams	„ „	„ „	14	8	6
Nath ^l Lawrance	„ „	„ „	14	8	6
Jon ^s Shepley, Serj ^t	Jan. 13	„ „	14	11	6
Tho ^s Chamberlin	Nov. 29	„ „	14	2	10
Mich ^l Gillson	April 28	„ „	3	7	1

[Massachusetts Archives, xci. 124.]

LANCASTER, July 1st 1724.

May it please your Honour,

I recieved your Letter the Last night in the evening, and not before tho' I suppose I might have had it sooner had the bearer pleased, Your Honour is pleased in your Letter to give me my choice of A Lieutenants Post in Groton or Turkey Hills or A Serjeants at Lancaster. I am sensible that Serjeants Pay in Town would be as Profitable as to keep constantly abroad, but yet upon Some Considerations I choose to Abide in the Post I am, and to go to Groton. I return my thanks to your Honour for the choice you have given me. I would Inform your Honour that on Monday Last I sent A Scout to Rutland who Returned yesterday and gave me an Account that In the way they discovered the tracks of four or five Indians bearing towards Wochoosett who they Judged had been gone 2 or 3 days. Yesterday Part of Groton men & Part of this Town went out for the week to range above the Towns to see what Discovery they could make, and I am my self this Day going out with what men I can Raise to see what I can discover. I desire the favour of your Honour, That the souldiers now under my Command in Lancaster and Groton might have the Liberty of abiding with me or of being Dismist. If it be your Honours Pleasure to let Edward Hartwell who hath been a Serjeant under me Abide still in that Post in this Town I should take it as a favour. I stand ready to attend your Honours Orders & Commands and am S^r

Your Humble Servant

JABEZ FAIRBANKS.

GROTON, July 20th 1724.

May it please your Honour

I have attended your orders in posting the men at the Towns of Groton Lancaster & Turkey hill — precisely except at Turkey

Hill there is but eleven men Cap^t Stevens having not as yet sent so many as ordered & I have Taken my post at Groton where I improve the Souldiers in the best manner I can agreeable to your orders, & have ordered them to Lodge in some of y^e most Exposed Garrisons as often as may be, but I find it impossible to Improve So Small a number of men So as to answer y^e Necessities of the people here whose circumstances are So verry Difficult & Distressing that I am not able fully to Represent to your Honour.

the poor people are many of them obliged to keep their own Garrisons and part of them Employed as Guards while others are at their Labour whose whole Time would be full Little enough to be expended in getting bread for their families. My own Garrison at Lancaster is very much exposed & with Humble Submission I think Requires Protection as much as any in that Town. therefore I Humbly pray your Honour would be pleased to give me Leave to post a Souldier there Dureing my absence in the service of the province I beg your Honours Pardon for giving you this Trouble; and as Leave to Subscribe my Selfe

Your most Obedient Humble Serv^t

JABEZ FAIRBANKS

[Massachusetts Archives, LII. 9, 18.]

For some brief "Journals," kept in this neighborhood by Lieutenant Fairbanks, during the years 1723 and 1724, see Massachusetts Archives, xxxviii. A 49-54.

Colonel Tyng writes, July 23, 1724, from Dunstable, to Lieutenant-governor William Dummer, that he has sent ten men of his company to Groton, agreeable to orders.

He goes himself "to dispose the 10 men there."

[Massachusetts Archives, LII. 22.]



18. — PAGE 41.

The following entry is found in the printed "Journal" of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, for November 20, 1724:—

A Petition of *Jacob Ames*, shewing that he was one of the Weekly Scouts near the Garrisons on the Westerly part of the Town of *Groton*; and on the Ninth Day of *July* last, when it was the Petitioners Week to be on Duty, a Number of Indians appeared at the Garrison of the Petitioners Father *John Ames*, and killed

him at the Gate, and then rush'd violently into the Garrison to surprise the People there. And the Petitioner did with Courage and Resolution by himself defend the Garrison, and beat off the Indian, Slew one of them and Scalp'd him; praying, That altho' it happened to be his Week to be on Duty, that this Court would take the Premises into their wise and serious Consideration, and grant what other Allowance more than the Establishment by Law, shall to them seem meet, for his aforesaid Service. Read, and in Answer to this Petition. *Resolved*, That over and above the *Fifteen Pounds* due to the Petitioner by Law, for recovering the said Scalp, and the good Services done this Province thereby, the Sum of *Fifteen Pounds* be allowed and Paid out of the Publick Treasury to the said *Jacob Ames* for his good Service as aforesaid.

Sent up for Concurrence.

19. — PAGE 42.

A List of the Names of the men that Scouted In the woods In July last under the Command of Cap^t Tho^s Tarbell of Groton & the Number of Days the ware In s^d Service

We Set out y^e 7 Day & : Returned y^e 13th Except Jacob Ames who was Taken sick & Returned back y^e 2^d Day

Groton Oct^r 21st 1748

attest

THO^s LAWRENCE Cler.

Liu Eleazer Green	Isaac Holden
Ensign Stephen Holden	Pilott Jerah ^e Powers
Sarga ^t John Page	John Shattuck
Serg Simon Pearce	Moses Woods
Samuel Shattuck Jun ^r	Tho ^s Lakin
James Shattuck	John Keemp
Eleazer Tarbell	Jona ^s Sartell
Jonathan Holden	Moses Blood
Elias Ellett	Henrey Farwell
Same ^{ll} Kemp Jun ^r	Nath ^{ll} Smith
Jona ^t Shattuck Jun ^r	Jona ^t Lawrence
John Gilson Jun ^r	Henry Jefts
Joseph Patterson	Aaron Woods
Timothy Mores	Jacob Ames
Neh ^a Jewett	Eleazer Green Jun ^r
Edm ^d Bancroft	John Parker Jun ^r

also by the authority a forsd on the 28 of July I marched in to The wilderness in quest of the Enemy with The men whose Names are hear after written and Returned the 29 Day: and we found our Selves both prevision and amanision both Times.

John Bulkely	Jonas Parker
James Prescott	Ruben Woods
John Gilson	Jonathan Lawrance
Dudley Bradstreet	Jeremiah Hobart
Jeremiah Shattuck	Isaac Lakin Jun ^r
William Nutting	Joseph Bennett
Tho ^s Lawrance	Joseph Chandler
Isaac Green	Isaac Patch Jun ^r
Jos. Sheeple	John Nutting Jun ^r
Tho ^s Woods	Jonathan Prescott
Joseph Parker	Daniel Pollard
Nathaniel Parker	Ebenezer Lakin
W ^m Bennett	Peter Parker
Nathaniel Shattuck	Sam ^l Bowers
Ezekiel Nutting	Tho ^s Chamberlin
Joseph Gilson	Ebenezer Blood
Isaac Gilson	Nathaniel Davis Jun ^r
James Fisk	Josiah Sartell clerk
	Tho Tarbell Cap ^t

[Massachusetts Archives, xcii. 156.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

To the Hono^red the Generall Co^rt of the Massachusetts Colony, in N. E.:

The humble request of the inhabitants of the Town of Groton,
humbly sheweth,

That Whereas in this day of Calamity & distress, wee are fellow-sufferers with our brethren & neighbo^s, in the sad & doleful consequences of the present unhappy warre: though wee have cause to adore & praise that mercy which hath preserved us from such desolation under which o^r neere neighbo^s are now bleeding; yet o^r sufferings are such, as, except the Lord helpe, wee are sinking under; esteeming it therefore o^r duty to apply o^rselves to yo^r hono^rs, whom wee account o^r publicke fathers, & trust you will improve yo^r wisdome & abilityes for us: wee doe earnestly crave o^r present State to be considered, & weighed in a just balance: who are brought neere to utmost streights. The enemye (as we groundedly suppose) waiting an opportunity against us; the season of the yeere calling to employment, & hasting to passe away from us: ourselves brought into a narrow compasse, & ready to undergoe sore sufferings, by reason of necessary arising inconveniencies; o^r provision neere consumed, & souldiers quartered amongst us hastening the expense of it: our wives & children, some removed, others removing: our cattel lying open to dayly hazards of being seized: These things portend to us a famine, & poverty, Coming upon us with as great fury on the one hand, as the enemy on the other; & wee at the present are unable to be beneficial to the publicke & private interest incumbent upon us. Wee humbly, & upon o^r knees crave yo^r hono^rs direction & assistance in this case, as the Lord shall direct whither wee shall goe or stay, or what way we may be set in, & wheras we were summoned to send in o^r Deputy we did esteeme o^r present State required the presence of o^r souldiery at home, especially men in place & office with us: wee therefore, being small in number, & dayly waiting the approach of the enemye, have (not in any despising of authority refrained from Chusing one: & withal have Chosen, o^r Rever^d Pasto^r. M^r Sam^{el} Willard to present this o^r humble request, & farther to expresse o^r

minds and humble desires, as occasion may present, & yo^r hono^{rs} shall see meet to enquire into. Commending you to the most hygh, & supplicating the God of heaven to reveale Counsell in this day of darknesse, & to make you instruments of his glorye, & his peoples peace; Wee rest,

Yo^r hono^{rs}
 From Groton this humble
 Febr: 19. 75. Suppliants
 SIMON WILLARD
 JAMES PARKER:

[*Superscription*]

To the Hono^{red} the Generall Co^t
 of the Massachusetts Colonye
 Assembled in Boston
 N. E:



*To the Right Honorable the Gov^r. and Council sitting
 in Boston.*

The Petition of Daniell Addams, Humbly sheweth, that your Petitioner's went out as a voluntear, upon the Scout, from Concord in company with some of Concord and some of Lancaster: and they coming to Grauton your petitioners there killed an Indian, and hath received no wages from the Country for any service that he hath done: notwithstanding he hath been out upon the same acc't severall times both the Last sumer and the Last winter, and is now going out againe under the Command of Leift. Curtis.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly requests the favor of your Honors to consider the premises and to grant him an order to the Treasurer for his satisfaction according as the Law allows in that case — so shall he be ever engaged to pray, &c.

DANIELL ADDAMS.

The above petition is marked on the back "21 April, 1676."

Else Woods aged forty years testifieth and saith that at Grooton upon the day that the most of the town was burnt by Indians: she heard severall say, that Daniell Adams had killed an Indian: and she went presently into Mr. Willards Garrit and saw two Indians

stand over a dead Indian, about halfe an hour, and then they carried him away, and further saith not.

The mark O of ALSE WOODS.

Att Groton the 14th of march 1676.

There was Daniell Adams, whoe was vary helpfull to the towne of Groton with som others Lankstar and the said Daniell adams did kill one Indan att Mr. Willards garason.

Witness JOHN CADYE and
SAMUEL WOODS.

we whoe see him fall to the ground and not rise againe.

As witness NICKCOLASS CADYE.

Samuell Woodes of Grotten aged about forty years of age witnis that he saw tooe indens standing upon Captine parker's iland at grotten and danill adams shot at tham, and one of them falle doune and the other ran away.

17 day of 2, month 1676, the mark Γ of SAMUEL WOODES.

[“Groton Herald,” April 24, 1830.]

David Jeffries writing from Boston, September 16, 1692, to Lieutenant Governor John Usher, says that, —

.. y^e 14th Inst at night a Post came to towne frō Majo^r Hincksman, w^{ch} gave an acc^t of about 80 or 100 Indians, y^t our scouts had made discovery of in y^e night siting *g* theirre fires hammering of slugs for theirre gunns our scouts was soe neare them y^t they could see y^e Indians & heare them talke, yesterday morning we had news y^t y^e Indians had killd two men at Groton Jera: Bowers is gone out wth about 100 men after them.

The letter is among the manuscripts of the New England Historic, Genealogical Society.

GROTON Octobr 15th 1694

To the Honored Generall Court :

The humble petition and earnest request of the Inhabitants of Groton humbly sheweth ; That whereas we the present survivors of this Towne do understand that ourselves either without invoice, or according to some former or according to your honours pleasures are willed & domed for a rate or Levy, a considerable some of moneys amounting to 50^{lbs} ; we therefore being feelingly apprehensive of our utter incapacity, in present circumstances without apparent wrong to us ; to pay said sum humbly make bold under

God to address this honored great generall Court. with both our humble petition and a discovery of our condition: our petition is that we may If it be your honourable pleasure to remitt us our assessment and not putt us upō further inevitable streights & Miseryes, This we humbly petition, and that we may not be thought unjustly to withdraw y^e shoulder from putting our strength & help to Support and cary on the government of theirs our Majestyes, in this part of their dominion, and be unwilling to bear our part with the rest of their Majestyes Subjects on this New England shoar as we have constantly & proportionably heitherto done and as arguments and Reason to prevail in this case. we make bold to spread our condition before your honored selves: not to run back very farr

1 It pleased God the disposer of all men & humane affairs to place us upon y^e outward borders of y^e inhabited land on this side y^e country. which by some is alledged as an argument against us, yett lett Reason butt speak & the union and communion not onely of naturall, but Christian Societyes have its argument and it will tell us of bearing one another's burdens, and of that Smpathetick property that is a naturall body & rationally ought to be both in cyvill & politick also: and therefore whatever our alledged priviledges are, or have bin, we ought not to be Grudged them, for indeed our out edge & Distant Living hath bin in these times of late awfull dealing our hurt & damage both as to psons & estates beyond parrell with any inward Townes, as plaine & undeniable Reason & argument is ready to be given.

2 The providence of y^e wise God, did order it That very grievous troublesome and mortall sicknesse, was amongst us the last year by wh we were not onely leasoned considerably in our numbers, but deminished in our estates It being so generall That one could not help y^e other by w^{ch} great charge of Doct's came upō us, losse of y^e Seasonable Labour of our inhabitants, to the indamaging the estates of y^e most, unrecovered by many to this day.

3 we might add our constant (in these late times) standing upon our guard, and considerable charge, of building & repairing forts, for our owne and the cuntryes safty, & securing their majestyes subjects, both here, and in the inmost places.

4 This years soar and awfull troubles by y^e late deaths captivities and consequent meseryes, whereby we lost severall able valuable psons, whose estates are either, much lessened, or removed by others, out our reach: beside by inevitable losse of corne, It is Judged by many of our Towne that a third part at lest of our Indian corne, is wholly lost; and now of late psons have bin hen-

dred much in their corne, & hay harvest, beside the hand of God upon our husbandry, as to rye much blasted, not halfe a usuall crop and by early frost. Indian corne much hurt, & damnified, that severall families will be at a losse for corne, not having for halfe y^e year through: Thus Leaving our petition & condition to your honours serious consideration hoping you may see, reason to indulge us in that matter praying to God who settis among y^e god to direct, & preside, and blesse, your psons & consultations to conclude & determine what may be for y^e present & future weal & prosperity, of these plantation, we rest & remaine yours in all duty & service.

James Parker Sen^r: William Laken Sen^r. Select men in the name of y^e Select men by y^e voat of y^e Towne of Groton.

[Massachusetts Archives, cxiii. 89.]

Upon reading this Petition of the Inhabitants of Groton Sitting forth their great distress and impoverishm^t by reason of the desolations made upon them by the Enemy Praying to be Eased and abated of their proportion to the last publick Tax or Assessm^t amounting to the sum of Fifty pounds.

Voted,

That the said Town be abated one halfe of the afores^d Sum of Fifty pounds, and that M^r Treasurer Do Suspend the calling for the other halfe until the Fifteenth day of December next. The Assessor^s forthwith to proportion the same upon their Inhabitants and to commit the List thereof unto their Constables, that so they may be collecting.

Octob^r 22^d 1694: Past in the affirmative by the house of Representatives and sent up to his Ex^{ty} and Council for Consent

NEHEMIAH JEWET speaker

Vot^d a concurrence in Council, die pdict.

IS^t ADDINGTON Sec^{ry}.

[Endorsed]

Vote for abatement to Groton. Oct^r 1694.

[Massachusetts Archives, cxiii. 97.]

—♦—

Governor William Stoughton writes from Boston, September 5, 1695, to Captain James Converse, that

“I order That at your next passing over Merrimack with your Company towards Dunstable &c That you advise with Maj^r Henchman and M^r Jon^s Ting concerning the posting yo^r men in the severall Frontiers of Dunstable, Bilrica Chelmsford Groton, Lancaster

and Marlboro for the better inforcem^t of the Garrisons there & maintaining a good brisk Scout for the discovery of the Enemy to prevent their annoying of those Towns during the Harvest Season.”

In accordance with this order, eight men were posted at Groton. Soon afterward, nine were posted here, of which seven were inhabitants of the town.

Captain James Converse writes from

“WOOBOURNE (7th y^e 7th 1696)

“May it pleas your Hon^t

“The subscriber receiving a letter from your Hon^t of y^e first Courant, and therein, a Com^{mand} to wait upon your Hon^t y^e next day in ord^r to receive some further Instructions, referring to a Journey to Groaton, to speak with some Volunteers &c: I was also ordered to take Cap^t Bowers & L^t Crosby with me to Groaton, but I hearing their scouts had discovered sundry tracks of the Enemy, I supposed those men might be in y^e Woods with their scouts, and so it proved, for this reson I took with me Capⁿ Tho^s Bancroft of Redding, and only one soldier with vs, we came to Groaton on fryday morning (the time y^t I was ordered to be there) where I mett with M^r Daniel Fitch & his second and y^e rest of their Volunteers all but two or 3 Indians, y^t left them (by force) in y^e morning, pretending to returne hom.”

[Massachusetts Archives, LI. 44, 68.]

To the Honored Luten^t Govern^r the Honored Councill and Representatives In the Court Assembled: The humble petition of the towne of Groton by orderly warning mett upon octob^r the 4th 1697 then voating (after Serious discourse upon the present times & awfull circumstances of them and our pticular immergencyes) our dislike of the present help granted to us as we are grieved att y^e management & oversight of it: & voating that capt^m James Parker and Ensigne John Farnsworth should be our Agents to present and promote this petition of ours by such discourse as might be needfull in our behalfe att the Court. Honored Sirs: We being in some measure necessitated (by the constancy and Long continuance of the righteous hand of Almighty God upon us) to know more experimentally the troubles concomitant and consequent of bloody & cruell warr, Then by Sympathy it can be possibly knowne by

others ; And that by Reason our stages & dwellings happene to be upon y^e very dint, brinck & in y^e mouth of more unavoidable difficultyes, fears dangers & death by the cruell sword of the wilderness, then many others are or can be, Therefore as we apprehend the case to stand with us, being diminished in our numbers, and greatly impoverished in our out wards, desirous as we hope in measure we have done to be constantly putting up our petitions to the Lord of hosts and God of armyes to afford us conduct & Assistance every way so we would not wanting to cry to & humbly call upon our Moses & Aaron to give us advise & to extend their helping hand who if any are, we are in the wilderness where y^r is Scorpions and subtle Finny Serpents mortally wounding and killing of us as your Honor^d Selves hear by Rumour upon Rumour, but we not onely hear butt feel see & woefully experience the same. Honored Sirs we desire with all gratitude and thankfullnesse to acknowledge your fatherly care of us hitherto, Butt yett we for our parts If still we must abide in the Front. We beg If it may seem good in your eyes that we may be Released from countrey charges to his Majesty or in plaine words countrey Rates & that we may be pleased with some sutable proportion of souldiers not of ourselves which if we may be worthy once more to obtaine we have agreed not to sell them away for men of ourselves as we wickedly did. The way of a changable scout we thought might do us a kindnesse, which if it had bin with good inspection & management attended It might have done It hath appeared to us more wayes than one that getting y^e Money hath bin more aimed at thē carefull ordering, or doing the worke to earn it hath bin ; we beg that If for this Autumnal & winter season you may soe meet to order y^e chargable scout that it may be no lesse thē 12 : & that it it may be putt into a carefuller & honester hand then it hath bin both for the place & benifit of this poor Towne we are able if called thereto to Alledge sufficient Argum^{nt} that if we have the same or other souldiers It is a thing requisite that some other p^{erson} might Inspect them

Thus craving p^{er}done for our boldnesse wishing y^e Lord to be your president in all publike matters that may be before you we humbly subscribe our selves yours in all obedience & loyalty

SIMON STONE	} Select men
THOMAS TARBELL	
SAMUEL PARKER	
ELIEZAR PARKER	

Oct^o. 15th 1697. Read

Constable of Groton

[Endorsed] Oct. 97

Voted In y^e house of Representatives

In answer to sd petition. That they are Eased in this Last tax as they desired : & as to y^e Scout y^t they Judg it needfull y^t Six of their owne Souldiers be Employed dayly : & y^t y^e comand^r in cheif put in a sutable pson to Inspect y^e same

Sent up for Concurrence

PENN TOWNSEND Speaker

[Massachusetts Archives, LXX. 360, 361.].

—◆—

For an account of a Court Martial, held at Groton, February 16, 1706-7, see "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register," x. 243-5. The original is in the Massachusetts Archives, LI. 153, 154.

—◆—

on a lecter day. Groton July. 9. 1707

May it plesse your Excelency I have Read your Excelencies order to y^e Inhabitants and the law against deserting the frontiers, I could do it no sooner for several of the inhabitants ware gon to plainfield and Returned yesterday, only two stayd behind ; S^r one of those that designe to Remove is the Barer & a selectman and lives on the outsid the Towne. I thought good to send him, who can acquaint your Excelency who is Removed & who are meditating the same.

Cap^t Bulkely & $\frac{1}{2}$ his men are gon to Lancaster and the other halfe here, and do Expect a Relece thay being men of concidrabable husbandrey ; y^e most of them. all y^e people that will worke in Companeyes have gards to Cover them to their Content, if your Excelency Plesse I should very glad of a Relie ; I am your

Excelences most Humble

Servent JOSIAH PARKER

To His

Excelency The

Gouvoner att

Roxbury

On Her Maj^{ty}s Service

GROTON July 9. 1707.

May it please yo^r Excy.

According to yo^r Ex^{cy}es Co^mmands wee have sent an account of those that are either actually remov'd, or meditating of it. Our People are reduc'd to that degree that they find themselves unable to

subsist any long^r; Would pray your Ex^{cy} either to grant Liberty for their Remove or that they may be reduc'd here intirely to a Garrison (of the Towne militia) for the pr^eserving the frontiers; wee thankfully acknowledge your Ex^{cy}'s great Care of us hitherto, and would pray the Continuance of your Regards, without which wee are an undone people Wee take leave to subscribe

(may it please yo^r Ex^{cy})

Your Ex^{cy}'s most obed^t Serv^{ts}

JOSEPH LAKIN

Town clarck

JOHN FARNSWORTH } Select
JONATHAN BOIDON } men
JOSEPH LAKIN }

GROTON July ye 9 day 1707

John Ston
Jonathan Pag
Nathanill Woods
Danill lawranc
John Shattuck
Nathanill Parker
Benimin Lakin
Jonathan boidon
John huchin
Zachariah Lawranc
Edman Chamberlin
John Hall
Samuell Shattuck
Zerrubbubl Kamp
Zachariah Sartwall
John Gilson
Abraham lakin
Josiah lakin
Joseph Lakin
William Lakin
William Shattuck
John Farnsworth
of the persons that are a consedring of going

Joseph Paraham
Samuill Davis
Danill Cadein
John Cadein
John hoare
Samuill Farnsworth
Joseph Boidon
Josiah Whetney
Corenallus Whitney
Joseph lawranc
Ebenezer Nutting
of persons gon

JOSEPH LAKIN }
JOHN FARNSWORTH } Select
JONATHAN BOIDON } men

JOSEPH LAKIN
Town clarck
for Groton

Sir,

The Enemy being drawn off & the Season of Danger pretty well over, You must forthwith see that the Soldiers in the Frontiers be reduced to the following Numbers; Viz, Twenty five Men at Dunstable & Dracut, Ten at Turkey Hills, Fourteen at Groton, Fourteen at Lancaster, Twenty five at Rutland & ten at Brookfield, & That all the Rest of the Soldiers in the Counties of Middlesex & Essex Including L^t. Brentnals Scouts be forthwith disbanded: And the several officers are required to put these Orders in Execution accordingly.

[To] COLL. TYNG.

Oct. 20, 1725.

[Massachusetts Archives, LXXII. 263.]

May it Please your Honour

I had Desired Lieu^t. Lawrence to order a Scout to Pequage [Athol] before I Rec^d. your Honours Letter which he had Done & from thence to Northfield tho none was Placed at Pequage but in as much as Pequage Does not appear more Exposed to the Enemy if so much as several other Places between y^e. rivers merimack and Conneticut that are within this Province and I apprehending your honour might not be so well acquainted with the curcomstances of these Frontiers I Did not order y^e. Lieu^t. to Place but ten men at Pequage for if fifteen had been sent there other places must have been left so naked that no Scouting Could have been Done which I am sencable was y^e. Courts Disigne but if what I have ordered Should not be agreeable I should be Glad to know your Honours mind. I find it is Difficult to satisfie the People with so few men in so long a Frontier but shall take y^e. best Care I can so far as I am concern^d to give orders for Every thing to be Done that your Honour Shall think best but if Possible I think best to keep out all y^e. new Plantations in this Province but I am afraid that thirty men is not sufficient. So with Great Regard, I remain your Honours most Humble and obedient Servant to Command.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE

To y^e. Hon^{ble}. Spencer Phips Esq^r.

GROTON July y^e. 29: 1755

[Massachusetts Archives, LIV. 521.]

Representatives to the General Court.

The following names are not found, according to Butler's "History," in the town records, and the authority for the names is given with each one:—

1683. Captain James Parker, "Massachusetts Records," v. 421.
 1708. * Mr. John Farnsworth, "Weekly News-Letter," May 31.
 1714. Mr. John Farnsworth, " " "
 1715. * Mr. Thomas Tarbell, " " May 30.
 1717. Mr. John Shepley, " " June 3.
 1718. Captain John Shipley, " " June 2.
 1719. Captain John Shipley, Neal's "Hist. of N. E.," II. 377.
 1732. † Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., "Weekly Rehearsal," June 12.
 1740. † Mr. John Longley, "Weekly News-Letter," June 5.
 1743. William Lawrence, Esq., " " May 30.
 1750. (*not represented*), " " June 4.
 1754. William Lawrence, Esq., "Jour. of House of Rep.," p. 4.



There are several tunes — at least five — called *Groton*, to be found in some of the old singing-books. They differ in music and in words, and are generally of different metres. The earliest that I have been able to find is one, in common metre, in Jacob Kimball's "Rural Harmony," published in 1793, at Boston. In Laws's "Harmonic Companion" (Philadelphia, copyrighted 1807) is a long-metre tune of this name. In "The Choir" (Boston, 1833), by Lowell Mason, another one, in particular metre, is given; and in the "Massachusetts Collection of Psalmody" (Boston, 1840), by George J. Webb, is still another, in long metre. A singing-book, entitled "Indian Melodies," was published in New York, in 1845, which contains a tune called *Groton*. The compiler of the work was Thomas Commuck, an Indian, and he claims that all the tunes in it, as well as the names, are Indian. This is a mistake, certainly so far as it relates to this name, — unless, perchance, it may have been adopted from the English.

* "Those that have this mark (*) are new ones."

† Not members during the preceding year.





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 079 024 2

